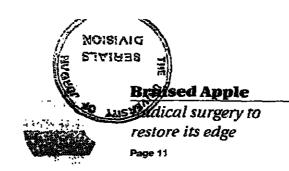


iohn Cleese 'Most top bosses are like five-year-olds'





By name and nature The irresistible rise of Umberto Bossi



Battle for Gucci

The danger of damaged goods

FINANCIAL TIMES

G7 prepares for showdown with Russia on reform

The Group of Seven industrialised countries and leading international financial institutions believe Russian reforms may not survive the present period of political uncertainty and are preparing for a showdown with the Russian government after the summer holiday season.

One diplomat in Moscow said yesterday: "The reformers in the cabinet presently look weak and isolated, unable to move." Sergei Shakhrai, a deputy prime minister and a close aide to President Boris Yeltsin, said the basic institutions of authority were paralysed. Page 12

Albert succeeds Baudouin: King Baudouin of Belgium, who died of a heart attack in Spain on Saturday aged 62, will be succeeded by his brother, Prince Albert, 59. The crown had been expected to pass to Prince Albert's son, Prince Philippe, Page 12

Demjanjuk's deportation blocked Israel's Supreme Court,



which last week cleared John Demjanjuk (left) last week of being "Ivan the Terrible" the gas chamber operator at Treblinka death camp in world war two, blocked his deportation to his native Ukraine while it consid ers whether he can stand trial for other

alleged war crimes. His departure was challenged on the basis that he was a guard at other camps.

Asahi Glass, the leading Japanese maker of giass products, reported an 11.7 per cent fall to Y20.05bn (\$190m) in pre-tax profit for the first half to June, as sales of glass and construction materials slipped in tandem with private construction orders in Japan. Page 15

12 die in crash: Twelve people were killed and eight injured when an express train crashed into their farm trailer as they crossed the tracks near Urleasca, in southeast Romania

Iri, Italy's state holding company, will postpone until at least September the sale of Cirio-Bertolli-De Rica, the canned foods division of its foodstuffs group, SME, claiming the bids received were inadequate. Page 15

Aid for co-operative: The Japanese government is to provide Y19bn (\$180m) to help restructure Osaka Fumin Credit Co-operative. The move is another sign of official concern about deteriorating public confidence in some smaller financial institutions. Page 15

sh Microsoft probe: The anti-trust division of the US Justice Department is to review documents relating to the business practices of Microsoft, the world's largest computer software company, following the failure of the Federal Trade Commission to agree on the case after a three-anda half year investigation. Page 2

Kurds kill 17: Guerrillas belonging to the separatist Kurdistan Workers Party, armed with rocket launchers and automatic weapons, killed 17 paramilitary police commandos in east and southeast Turkey, security officials said yesterday.

Northwest Airlines, fourth largest US carrier, suffered a \$135.2m after-tax loss for the second-quarter after taking a charge of nearly \$100m linked to its financial restructuring. However John Das burg, president, said the company now had one of the most competitive cost-structures of all US airlines. Page 15; Qantas Airways chief executive to resign, Page 15

Banesto: A dramatic increase in provisions to Pta52.4bn (\$377tn) brought pre-tax profits for the Spanish commercial bank down to Pta5.7bn, an 82.6 per cent drop on the 1992 first half figure of Pta33bn, Page 15

Aetna Life & Casualty, one of the largest US composite insurers, turned in improved results for the second quarter but said its earnings remained unsatisfactory. Page 15

Specialist Computer Holdings, one of the UK's largest independent computer sales companies, is to invest about £40m (\$59.2m) in launching a nationwide chain of computer superstores. Page 13

BAT Industries, Anglo-American tobacco and insurance group, would consider taking a majority stake in the tobacco operations of Seita, the French state-owned tobacco monopoly, following its privatisation. Page 14

Gold rush: London investors are being asked to provide £9m (\$13.3m), and possibly £84m, for a gold mining venture in the newly-independent republic of Kazakhstan, formerly part of the Soviet

Nafta under attack: US labour leaders, environmentalists and the "Perotistas" supporting ex-presidential candidate Ross Perot have signed a declaration of war against the North American Free Trade Agreement. Page 2

Deutsche Bank in Treuhand deal: The Treuhand, charged with privatising eastern German industry, has sold a portfolio of businesses to Deutsche Bank, which will restructure and attempt to sell them. Page 13

Trade plea: The emergent economies of central and eastern Europe and the European Free Trade Association countries should make less of their "EC-mania", and focus more instead on their increasingly important bilateral relationship, says leading trade economist Richard Baldwin.

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EC holds crisis talks in struggle to save ERM

By Peter Marsh and Lionel Barber in Brussels and agencies

EUROPEAN Community finance ministers were last night fighting to save the European exchange rate mechanism, examining options ranging from making the embattled system more flexible

to suspending its operating rules. At an emergency meeting in Brussels, ministers and central bank governors from the 12 EC states focused on ways to widen the ERM's existing fluctuation bands for its eight member currencies, including the ailing French franc. Other options being pursued included a change in the rules obliging intervention by central banks to buy weak currencies, or allowing some or

all the currencies to float. The efforts were interpreted as a bid by EC governments to buy time in a desperate effort to reassure financial markets that the mechanism has a future.

The meeting was reported last night to have set itself a deadline of midnight Brussels time (10pm GMT) because of the opening of the Tokyo foreign exchange. Suspension of the ERM rules was described as a "last resort".

Ministers were trying to forge a compromise aimed at avoiding a politically humiliating devaluation for the French franc while avoiding a confrontation with the Bundesbank over interest rate THE ERM IN CRISIS

Page 4

□ War of words in press ☐ inflationary flames fuelled ☐ Swimming against tide

Samuel Brittan, Page 10; Observer, Page 11; Lex. Page 12; Capital markets. Pages 16-17

On Saturday, after more than six hours of deliberations, the EC monetary committee proved unable to resolve these tensions. There was no evidence yester

day of any overt pressure on Mr Helmut Schlesinger, president of the Bundesbank, to force a wholesale reduction of borrowing rates in Germany. Lack of a move in this direction by the German central bank last Thursday triggered two days of unprece-dented selling of weak ERM currencies - including the French and Belgian francs, Danish krone, Spanish peseta and Portu-

Yesterday's talks instead seemed to focus on reforming the 14-year-old ERM. However, an Irish official that the talks were "extremely fluid". A Spanish monetary official said that, apart from the ideas related to currency bands and intervention

rules, "other options were not entirely off the table".

Mr Philippe Maystet, finance minister of Belgium, which holds the rotating EC presidency, was last night holding bilateral talks with individual member states to

discuss the remaining options.
Of these, widening the fluctuation bands would give the system more flexibility, but a possible drawback is that financial markets could be encouraged to test the wider limits and so make the system less more secure.

The ERM's bands prescribe the margin individual currencies can fluctuate around the D-Mark. They allow currencies to move 2.25 per cent around their central D-Mark rate - exceptions being the escudo and peseta, which have wider bands of 6 per cent.

Another factor is that a widening of the limits could also be interpreted as an effective devaluation of the weak currencies and, in the case of France, an -abandonment of the current fixed parity link with the D-Mark.

One possibility on changing the rules for intervention is that the obligation of the Bundesbank to support fragile ERM currencies could be reduced as a way to stem the large losses on these operations incurred by the German bank in the past year.

It was unclear last night whether these options would satisfy financial markets that the ERM could be given a new lease



German finance minister Theo Waigel arriving for the emergency EC meeting in Brussels yesterday

of life after a year of virtually continuous strains and the spending last Thursday and Friday of an estimated DM75bn (\$43bn) by Europe's central banks

in propping up weak currencies. Mr Theo Waigel, the German finance minister, stressed ministers' determination to find a solution to the crisis. "There must be peace in the markets," said. Mr Kenneth Clarke, Britain's

he hoped any solution to the crisis would have the goal of helping economic recovery. Britain left the ERM last September. The emergency meeting was

called by Germany after long

chancellor of the exchequer, said

talks between Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Mr Theo Waigel, German finance minister, and Mr Helmut Schlesinger, Bundesbank president, on Friday evening at Mr Kohl's holiday home near

Wolfgangsee. French TV stations said last night France was demanding that the D-Mark's fluctuation bands be widened from 2.25 per cent to 6 per cent and that the Bundesbank promise to cut rates before September. France 2 and TF1 stations said Paris was insisting any widening of bands apply to the D-Mark and not to other currencies and a timetable be agreed for

a return to narrower bands.

According to another report, six options under consideration last night appeared to be: • The D-Mark and Dutch guilder leave the ERM indefinitely.

• Continue central bank intervention to support existing pari-

 Suspend the system entirely. Permanently fix the exchang rate parities of the "core" ERM members - Germany, France and the Benelux countries - for a rapid move towards mini-European Monetary Union. Widen all the currency fluctu-

ation bands to 6 per cent. • Introduce wider bands just for

London dealers in vigil as Far East markets open

By James Blitz in London

FOREIGN exchange dealers in London were preparing last night for an unusual out-of-hours trading session as they waited for European Community finance ministers to decide on the future of the exchange rate mechanism. London currency dealers were poised

to make prices in Asian trading time. Such trading is usually limited to the night of a UK general election or a US

was expected to have a powerful effect on today's trading in currencies, bonds and equities. The overwhelming view in the London market was that the selling of the French franc would only stop this week if France announced substantial cuts in interest rates.

"People have been selling the franc because they believe that France's interest rates are too high," said Mr Paul Chertkow, global currency strategist at Union Bank of Switzerland in London. "The selling will only stop if France The ministers' meeting in Brussels reduces them to 4 per cent by the end of

the year." The French intervention rate stood yesterday at 6.75 per cent. A broad cut in rates, including the

German discount rate, would trigger a rally on European bond markets, not only in France, but also in Belgium and Italy, which would benefit from the reduction in borrowing costs to fund their deficits.

Some dealers believed that the continuing crisis in the ERM could be staved off for a few weeks if there was a realignment, or a widening of the French franc's fluctuation band against

the D-Mark. But few believed that this would be a long-term solution, even if it was accompanied by modest cuts in German and French interest rates.

Some dealers thought a suspension of the system was the most likely outcome, allowing Europe to cut short-term interest rates, and letting Europe's currencies float for the first time in 14 years. But dealers were uncertain whether the market would buy or sell a freely floating franc, dealers believed the franc

would depreciate against the D-Mark in

the short term as France cuts interest

"We've your

best interests

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against the D-Mark because of France's strong trade and current account posi-Mr Eric Fishwick, an analyst at IBJ International in London, said that the

rates. But others thought the franc

could appreciate above the FFr3.40 level

end of the ERM could trigger the start of a long-term move out of the D-Mark into other European currencies and the dol-

"Take the system away, and you are left looking at Germany's fundamental economic weakness," he said.

Border talks begin on Bosnian republics

By Laura Silber in Geneva

INTERNATIONAL mediators in Geneva pressed on yesterday with the ethnic partition of Bosnia as Moslem president Alija Izetbegovic appeared to admit defeat by his Serb and Croat enemies.

Fierce fighting raged in the former Yugoslav republic as repre-sentatives of Bosnia's Moslems, Serbs and Croats met under UN auspices to try to hammer out agreement over the borders for a new "union" of three ethnic

Under a news blackout, the peace mediators. Lord Owen and Mr Thorvald Stoltenberg, were understood to have tried to put pressure on Mr Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, to hand over land to Bosnia's Mos-

lems, who control just 10 per cent of the republic's territory. Mr Karadzic at the weekend offered to cede 15 per cent of the 72 per cent of the republic controlled by Serb forces, but there appeared to be no tangible concessions in the talks.

The international mediators have set a target of 30 per cent of the land for Moslems, a figure they see as a reasonable minimum for the functioning of a via-

Mr izetbegovic endorsed ethnic

partition at the weekend . "Com-pared to what was planned for

us, I hope that we fared rather well because we survived," he told Sarajevo radio.

As he negotiated with the Serbs and Croats, snipers shot dead three people and wounded another five as they tried to escape from Sarajevo - which has been under a Serb siege from the surrounding hills for 16 months - by running across the UN-controlled airport, said UN officials.

In a sign that a settlement would fuel the "map-war" between Moslems and Croats. Bosnian radio reported intense lighting in central and northern Bosnia as the mainly Moslem forces tried to secure more terri-

Sarajevo radio said Serb forces launched an offensive around Zvornik and Doboj in northern Bosnia. "The Zvornik front is a veritable inferno today... the free Zvornik territory is in flames," the radio said. Serbian media said a Moslem infantry

attack was repulsed in Doboj. Meanwhile in Croatia's Dalmatian hinterland, Serb rebeis began shelling a strategic bridge 16 hours after the expiry of a deadline for handing it over to

At the talks in Geneva, a Serb Continued on Page 12 Breakthrough for a broken land

CONTERNESS OF THE PARTY OF THE

Christopher to hold talks on ceasefire

By Roger Matthews in Washington, Mark Nicholson in Belrut and Julian Ozanne in

MR Warren Christopher, the US secretary of state, prepared to set out for the Middle East yesterday as Israeli tanks and troops crossed back into northern Israel and thousands of Lebanese refugees began the trek back to villages bombed for a

Mr Christopher, who is due is in Egypt today before travelling on to Syria, Jordan and Israel, will be trying to strengthen the fragile ceasefire in southern Lebanon, reached over the weekend, and seeking to revive the stalled peace negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbours. US officials were in no doubt about the difficulties faced by Mr Christopher and the extent to which his task had been complicated by the week-long Israeli attacks on Lebanon which killed more than 130 civilians, wounded at least 500 and drove an estimated 250,000 people from

The ceasefire, which came into effect on Saturday after a series of telephone calls by Mr Christo-

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Managed Funds 21-24

World Stock Allarkets 20

New Ins. Bonds Menagement 7 Economica Notebook 19

LONDON . PARIS . FRANKFURT . NEW YORK . TOKYO

pher to the region's leaders, held Continued on Page 12

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You may well find you're better off

How López agonised over rival tugs on his heart

THE PLOT of the all-action espionage drama involving two of the world's top automotive groups seemed in danger at the weekend of dissolving into a tear-jerker.

According to a meticulous diary of events kept by Mr Jens Neumann. Volkswagen's personnel director, on March 13 he phoned Mr José Ignacio López de Arriortúa, who, four days earlier, had signed a contract to join

VW from General Motors. Mr López was not at home, he was told. But then he came to the phone to explain that four GM directors had just left. They had begged him to stay because otherwise General Motors would go bust and 400,000 families would lose their jobs. "He

asked Mr Piech to forgive him; he was a broken man," according to His notes were presented in evi-dence last week to Darmstadt prosecutors investigating GM's suspicions of industrial spying against Mr López, and released by VW at the weekend. While the parts of his evidence published threw no light on the burning issue of whether Mr López and his associates systematically plundered the US group's secrets before joining VW, they illu-minated the bizarre tug-of-war which preceded the spying charges.

two sides does not clash substantially.

Mr Neumann's notes contain the only points of detail so far to

emerge on which evidence from the

Mr Jack Smith, GM president, was fighting to keep Mr López even as the US group announced that he was to leave. At 11.30am on March 12, Mr Lopez called Mr Neumann to say Mr Smith had turned on the emotional pressure, allegedly saying he would be sacked if he let the Basque engineer go to Germany. According to raw notes taken on Saturday March 13 by Mr López's

former PR aide, Ms Toni Simonetti, and read out in a Hamburg court recently, Mr López was visited in Detroit on the evening of Friday, March 12, by Mr Smith, Mr Richard Wagoner, finance director, and Mr Harry Pearce, GM's legal brain. They "spoke to me like a father

and two brothers. . . we made a mistake not to understand your

our mistakes. . . that broke my heart," Mr López said, according to Ms Simonetti's notes. They continued: "A different GM first ever the big company can have soul warm and can love for each other..."

Mr López has repeatedly denied dictating these words, intended for a speech due to be delivered on Monday, March 15, to explain to GM employees why he had, after all, decided to stay in the US. Back in Mr Neumann's diary, an entry timed at 11.00am on the day

Ms Simonetti allegedly took down the outline speech, Mr López was on the phone to Germany again. He had told Mr Smith there was no way back, he could not leave VW in the lurch, "The word of a Basque cannot be broken".

same day, when Mr López had apparently broken, changed his mind again and asked for the VW chairman's forgiveness, there were two more calls in which Mr López mise from Mr Piech. He could stay at GM, and join VW in a year.

On Sunday March 14, the vacillating Basque called Mr Neumann. He would try to set GM to rights within a year and then reconsider his posi-tion. He had not slept for four nights, he said. He was back on the line the next day. The US group wanted to lock him into a five-year contract as president of GM North America, but his "heart and mind belonged to Germany, and he had a clear vision for Europe," according

Within minutes. Mr Piech was on

the phone to his "very unhappy" director-to-be. "This strengthened his resolve to fly to Germany today. He needs him now," the notes said. Half an hour later Mr Lopez and his family were on the way to the air-

Mr Neumann's published extracts ended: "March 16, 1993, 10am: I col-lect Mr Lopes from Braunschweig airport and bring him to the super-visory board meeting which has already started."

In Detroit, on the advice of Mr Pearce, the office of the Basque had been searched in vain for secret documents. The fruitless hunt was under way for more papers, pictures and files, alleged to have been assembled by his closest colleagues. The spying drama was about to IN BRIEF

S African township clash kills 30

AT LEAST 30 people were killed in a South African township clash, overshadowing efforts to woo black and white conservatives back to democracy talks, Reuter reports from

Residents and police said fighting began when hostel dwellers, most of them mem-bers of the Zulu-dominated inkatha Freedom party, attacked nearby homes.
Street battles raged on for

most of Saturday night, resulting in the death of at least 30. A family of four, including a five-month-old baby, perished Tembisa residents, most of them supporters of the African National Congress, said the attack was unprovol

The violence flared as the ANC and the government were making last-ditch efforts to get Inkatha, the KwaZulu home-land and the pro-apartheid Conservative party back to

More than 530 have died since negotiators confirmed the April 27, 1994 election date.

Warning of Caracas revolt

One of Venezuela's two leading candidates for the presidency warned at the weekend that the country was moving close to another military uprising, Joseph Mann reports from

The statement, made by Mr Oswaldo Alvarez Paz, candidate for the Christian Democrat Copei party, came after two weeks of rising tensions in Venezuela caused by a rash of bombings in the capital, press reports of a stillborn military rebellion and new rumours of military discontent.

The most recent bombing took place on Saturday when an explosion damaged the headquarters of Fedecamaras, enezuela's largest association of industry, commerce and finance. Incidents up to now have involved relatively small explosive devices.

The authorities have not identified the terrorists, but government officials say that unidentified "extremists" are attempting to create political instability and block national

Algeria signs gasline deal

Bechtel of the US concluded over the weekend a contract worth \$305m (£204.6m) with Sonatrach, the Algerian state hydrocarbons company, for the construction of part of the gasline linking the Maghreb with Europe, Our Foreign Staff writes from London.

Israel blocks

Israel's Supreme Court, after clearing Mr John Demjanjuk last week of being Nazi death camp guard "Ivan the Terri-ble", blocked his deportation to Ukraine yesterday while con-sidering if he can stand trial for other war crimes, Reuter reports from Jerusalem.

A five-judge court acquitted Mr Demianjuk

judge Mr Shlomo Levin said.

Car groups' spying dispute set to enter decisive stage

By Christopher Parkes in Frankfurt

THE investigation of General Motors' spying allegations made against senior Volkswagen employees will enter a decisive stage this week with the expected return to Germany of key witnesses.

Public prosecutors will be able to step up their questioning and are expected soon to call Mr José Ignacio López de Arriortua, GM's former global purchasing director, and three associates who GM says systematically plundered industrial secrets from the US group and its European subsidiaries before defecting to VW in

The four former GM employees and most of their VW during the traditional works holiday period. Mr Ferdinand Piech, the Ger-

man concern's chairman, will also press his initiative for background talks with Mr Jack Smith, president of GM, without prejudice to the legal case,

Mr Piech, who made contact last week in what was seen as a damage limitation exercise, will telephone Mr Smith again today or tomorrow, VW said.

The VW chairman's public attack on GM last week, hint, ing at a conspiracy to pervert the course of justice, was widely criticised as ill judged. It sparked appeals for "moderate language" from government ministers concerned at the damage being done to Ger-

many's reputation. Mr Günter Rexrodt, federal economics minister, offered to act as a mediator between the

accusations of mud-slinging and his declaration that the case was a war in which the IIS concern wanted to destroy his company.

Meanwhile, Mr López denied in a statement further claims in the weekly magazine Der Spiegel that "secret" documents from a meeting in Germany on March 10, the day after he signed a contract to work with immediate effect for VW. were shipped at his request to his home in Uribe, northern Spain.

This conflicts in part with allegations last week from Adam Opel, the US group's German subsidiary, that local staff, unaware of his new job. fulfilled his requests for "internal" Opel data which were presented at the meeting to be sent to Spain.

According to Der Spiegel, Mr López had earlier asked for nine cartons to be sent to the Uribe address. The boxes, weighing 150kg, were report-edly sent on February 22.

In his statement at the week end, issued on his behalf through VW, Mr Lôpez said he had asked "at an earlier" point for books, magazines and personal documents from his Opel office to be sent to Uribe. According to evidence pres-

ented to prosecutors last week but released by VW at the weekend, a VW director claimed Mr López was subjected to emotional pressure from Mr Smith to try to keep him at the US group in March. Mr Smith allegedly pleaded with him to stay, warning that GM would go bankrupt if he left, and that Mr Smith would

Three-year fight to win hearts of US public reaches climax

Nafta foes fight on the cheap

By Nancy Dunne and Lisa Bransten in Washington

IN California, labour leaders, environmentalists and the "Perotistas" supporting Mr Ross Perot have signed a Declaration of War against the North American Free Trade Agreement. The site of the signing ceremony in Sacracity's congressman, Mr Bob Matsui, one of the leading proponents of Nafta in the US House of Representatives.

In Washington state, Nafta opponents wrote alternative menus for a dinner given for Mr Rufus Yerxa, the Deputy US Trade Representative. These featured the potential chemical content of the dishes if the free trade pact becomes a reality and allegedly toxicladen Mexican produce floods into the US.

Auti-Nafta crusaders drove caravans through Tennessee, can jobs.

THE anti-trust division of the

US Justice Department is to

review documents relating to

the business practices of Micro-

soft, the world's largest com-

puter software company, fol-

lowing the failure of the

Federal Trade Commission to

agree on the case after a three-

The move represents a set-

back for Microsoft because it

had appeared that the FTC was

hopelessly deadlocked on the

issue and that the investiga-

tion might soon end. The com-

pany declined to comment, say-

officially notified of the review.

that it has not been

and-a-half year investigation.

lise opposition. Equipped as information centres, the vans cruised from town to town showing films and slides of the environmental degradation in

With just a shoestring budget - no more than \$200,000 a year in cash - foes of Nafta have worked for three years to win the hearts and minds of the American public.

Nafta's US proponents mostly the business community - are spending millions, bypassing the voters, to convince Congress to pass

An NBC/Wall Street Journal poll released last week showed 31 per cent of all Americans in favour of the pact, a slight increase from previous surveys, while 29 per cent are opposed. However, 63 per cent believe Nafta will cost Ameri-

issue into the political arena

and could test the Clinton

administration's tougher

stance on anti-trust enforce-

ment. If the Justice Depart-

ment finds evidence of anti-

competitive activity, it will have to decide whether the

public interest is served by tak-

ing action against one of the

most successful high-technol-

review the thousands of docu-

ments amassed by the FTC.

The commission has reached

whether to proceed against the

software company, with the latest vote taken last

The Justice Department will

ogy companies in the US.

Although the Clinton administration weeks ago said it would appoint a "Nafta czar" to shepherd the pact through Congress, it has yet to ounce it has found anyone to take on the task. By contrast, the opposition has an "anti-Nafta czar" in place and making speeches around the

country. Indiana congressman. Nafta foes have pooled their meagre resources to provide him with a campaign office, and field legislative directors, Forty-one states have been organised. and every two weeks the organisers hold long confer-

Microsoft faces new investigation

interests.

ence calls to plot strategies. Nafta foes around the country say their protests have persuaded congressman to back away from support of the deal. One California gubernatorial hopeful, Ms Kathleen Brown, has been stalked by demonstrators, who even follow her

favour and two against issuing

sioner excused himself from

the case, claiming a conflict of

allege that the company has

attempted to raise false con-

cerns among customers that its

Windows program does not

work properly with operating

system programs sold by com-petitors. There are also com-

plaints that Microsoft's pro-

gram-licensing methods are

designed to exclude competi-

Microsoft, which has repeat-

edly denied any wrongdoing,

last week accused rival Novell.

Microsoft's competitors

a complaint. A fifth commis-

According to Mr Craig Mer-

rilees, director of California's Fair Trade Campaign, Ms Brown has expressed doubt about the pact, along with the rest of the state's Democratic establishment. With a 9.5 per cent official unemployment rate and more job loss to come from the closure of military bases, opposition to the Nafta "is not a bard sell in Calif-

With the expected conclu sion this week of the talks over side agreements on labour and environment, both sides are preparing to crank up their lobbying efforts.

The opposition is not awaiting an announcement of the details, said Ms Lori Wallach. one of the opposition's leaders. The side pacts will be "silly," she said, "It's the same old Bush Nafta with the supplementals used to create a fig-

to stir up trouble for its own

benefit. Throughout the FTC

investigation "nothing has

come up that causes us the

slightest concern." said Mr Bill

"The only issues that seem

to be active ... have been pro-

moted very heavily by Novell," he said. "We're disappointed

by the way that Novell is pur-

suing this." Novell's goal, he

charged "is to get us to raise

our prices ... so that they can compete more effectively."

Novell, which has actively

lobbied for anti-trust action

against Microsoft, said that it

had been contacted by the FTC

and co-operated with the inves-

Gates, Microsoft chairman.



A Bosnian Serb soldier rests with his Bugs Bunny mascot on top of a tank during a hill in fighting

E Europe 'should focus more on bilateral trade'

By David Dodwell, World Trade Editor

THE emergent economies of central and eastern Europe (CEEC) and the European Free Trade Association countries should make less of their "ECmania", and focus more instead on their increasingly important bilateral relationship, a leading trade economist argues in a paper published

last week.* This relationship is likely to account for a quarter of their trade growth in the decade ahead the economist says.

Mr Richard Baldwin, profesor of economics at the Institut Universitaire des Hautes Etudes Internationales in Geneva, acknowledges that the sheer size and proximity of the European Community means it is likely to remain the main magnet for trade growth in the decade ahead for the Efta and eastern European countries. But he predicts that double-digit import growth in the eastern European econoaccount for 20 per cent of Efta's exports to the enlarged Europe – and vice versa. For the CEEC, the sum of exports to Efta countries and

trade within the CEEC area is forecast eventually to account for about half of all their trade. He notes that the 100m people living in the CEEC area already have a combined GDP almost as large as the GDP of Efta's 32m population. As a result, he calls for an

eastern enlargement of Efta as being in the interests of both Efta and CEEC exporters - and preferable to early EC entry, where he notes "the economic and political marginalisation implicit in the bilateral trade deals signed with western

Europe' He also warns that the explosive growth of the CEEC for western Europe's exporters cannot continue indefinitely without more openings for their exports. This is endorsed by the Amex bank in its latest review, which notes that a 25 per cent jump in CEEC exports to the EC (from \$3bn to \$4bn a

on the EC, accounting for just 0.2 per cent of EC imports".

Mr Baldwin predicts that Efta exports to the CEEC have the potential to grow at more than 10 per cent a year "for decades". Assuming the CEEC can reach an average GDP per capita equivalent to 70 per cent of the EC average by the year 2020, he says their economies will grow at least twice as fast as those of the EC.

For Efta countries, export growth to the region will be four times faster than export growth to the EC: "While the base on which this growth is taking place is fairly small compared to exports to western Europe, the rates are so much higher that the CEEC markets are estimated to be an important source of Efta export

growth.' * The Potential for trade between the countries of Efta and Central and Eastern Europe by Richard Baldwin. Published by European Free Trade Association, Geneva. Tel: (4122) 749 1111.

deportation

Yesterday a separate three-judge panel, acting on a com-plaint by two Israelis, gave government prosecutors seven days to show why Mr Demianjuk should not be investigated anew based on allegations that he was a guard at other Nazi

"The discussion will resume in 10 days. In seven days the attorney-general will submit his arguments, and he won't be deported until then," presiding

'The Big Hustle' goes for gold in the 1996 Olympics

Atlanta is confident it is equal to the daunting task of staging the games, writes Barbara Harrison

THE extravaganza of the summer Olympics usually takes place in well-known cities, such as Barcelona, Seoul, Los Angeles, and Moscow, to name the last four. But in 1996 Atlanta, the ninth largest US city, will host the games and it sees the event as its ticket to international recognition. Atlantans intend the games to bring not only world fame, but foreign investment and a physical transformation of the city. If these

atorily called "The Big Hustle", is self-promotion. But after lengthy self-congratulation following its award of the games in 1990, Atlanta now seems awes-truck by the scope of what it must

seem ambitious goals, take into

account that the best-known charac-

teristic of this city, sometimes derog-

Atlanta lawyer and native son who heads the private organising committee called the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (Acog), is brimming with confidence. Atlanta will stage the games, he says, "better than anyone ever has."

With respect to his committees

With respect to his committee's budget needs of \$1.5bn, Mr Payne's confidence seems well founded. The US television rights for the Atlanta games were sold on July 27 to NBC for a record \$456m. The final bid by the network came in unexpectedly high given that it recorded a loss of \$100m on the Barcelona Olympics, But with projections that this will

be the largest audience in history for

accomplish to mount the 16-day spectacle. Nonetheless, Mr Billy Payne, the irrepressibly exuberant profit. Although Mr Payne had once predicted he could get \$600m in TV rights, he said he was pleased with the agreement. Of the \$456m fee, 60 per cent, or \$274m, will go to Acog, with the remainder to the International Olympic Committee.

Atlanta, the American South's siness capital, is only the second city in history - after Los Angeles in 1984 - to raise funds for the games entirely from the private sector. After television rights, the next biggest contributor to Acog's budget is corporate sponsorships. Unlike Los Angeles, which sold some 35 at about \$4m each, Acog wants 10-12 sponsors at \$40m a piece. Surprisingly, in an economic cli-

mate that can hardly be called

robust, five companies have already signed on for the full \$40m, namely Nationsbank, Home Depot, Sara Lee, IBM, and Anheuser-Busch. John Hancock Financial Services has also signed on to promote its life insurance, but two other insurers are expected to fill the insurance category for a total of more than \$40m. according to Mr Payne.

He says several companies will share the telecommunications category and also bring in more than the normal sponsor fee. He claims negotiations with sponsors for cars and quick service restaurants are in the final details. Chrysler and McDonald's have been past sponsors of the US Olympic Committee, which has combined efforts with Acog for 1996 and will take 30 per cent of the spon-

Yet, while ACOG's financial picture "looks extraordinarily favoura-ble," according to Mr Payne, the bigger picture for Atlanta is not so rosy. There are worries that Atlanta will not measure up to world standards on amenities. Although it does not have to build infrastructure, its downtown has little life for pedestrians and virtually closes after bustness hours. Visitors may also shudder at the poverty of the dilapidated neighbourhoods where the main

Olympic venues will be located. A \$500m facelift is planned that includes walkways and parks. This is down from an original wish list of \$2.5bn, but beyond a request to the state for \$200m, and it is unclear where the rest of the money will come from. The city has pledged not to put itself in debt for the Olympics.

City improvements are the financial responsibility of local government. But Acog, which is handling Olympic venues, has been caught up in conflicts about the impact on the predominantly black neighbourhoods where its venues will be. Acog's construction of a \$209m Olympic stadium, which will be the city's centrepiece for 1996, is, for example, opposed by residents who contend it will not deliver the prom-

ised economic development. Meanwhile, true to the city's reputation for being pushy, the business community has latched on to the Olympics as a chance to win new investment. By the end of this month, the Chamber of Commerce will launch a three-year worldwide TV advertising campaign on CNN International to promote the city. THE FINANCIAL TIMES
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Barrage jolts PM's dream for Lebanon

MR Rafik al-Hariri, Lebanon's prime minister, yesterday item-ised the physical damage to his country wrought by nearly seven days of heavy Israeli bombardment: 128 people killed, of whom eight he says were Hizbollah fighters, 470 injured, 300,000 refugees, 10,000 houses in the south destroyed and 20,000 houses or apart-

ments damaged. The human cost of the barrage is self-evident. The economic costs are only now being tailied. The Health Ministry reckons it will cost at least \$25m for immediate humanitarian relief. Mr al-Hariri, who made his multi-billion dollar fortune in the construction industry, says it will cost around \$900m to rebuild the broken villages.

This alone, even given the \$500m pledged by Arab League states over the weekend to be split between reconstruction and strengthening the Lebanese army, will further burden a country that had just begun to heave itself towards reconstruction, after a 17-year civil

The battle to rebuild the nation goes on, writes Mark **Nicholson**

war which ruined swathes of Beirut, countless villages and itself left perhaps half a mil-

But the greatest immediate cost to Lebanon may be the damage Israel's bombardment has inflicted on confidence the most vital ingredient in the prime minister's eight month old effort to put the country back on its feet. "Definitely this has jolted confidence in Lebanon," says Mr Tewfik Mishlawi, a local journalist, "and has undermined considerably Hariri's hopes and ambitions - it's a great blow to

The dream of restoring Beirut, and indeed Lebanon, as a magnet for Middle Eastern banking and trade, has rested squarely on the hope that other Lebanese will follow Mr al-Hariri's own fierce belief in his country, which the businessman-turned-politician is undertaking to back with millions of his own dollars, and hring themselves and their wealth back home.

This dream, enshrined in Mr al-Hariri's showpiece \$13bn. ten-year, Horizon 2000 redevelopment project, required faith enough. For a country with GDP of only \$3.5bn and a budget deficit for the first five months of this year of \$360m, raising the sums for Horizon 2000 always looked ambitious. There has been some success: international donors have already pledged \$1.35bn towards specific projects and, as a sign that diaspora Lebanese have begun to repatriate their wealth, private deposits in local banks have risen 13 per cent in the past five

months. But even before Israel's bom-bardment, some Lebanese investors and contractors were starting to grumble about the pace of progress. "It's really a lot slower than I expected, says Mr Jo Mehtar, one Lebanese engineer who returns from 15 years' exile in the US to set up a construction company to exploit the rebuilding programme, "I've achieved 20 per cent of what I thought I

would." Mr al-Hariri, however, remains undaunted. Yes, the rebuilding programme has been delayed," he said in an interview. "By exactly one week." And he seeks to deflect the suggestion that the seven-day bombardment might have shattered confidence. by arguing that Lebanon's political resilience in the face of it demonstrated a new national unity. "If this had happened two years ago," he says, "the country would have fallen apart. Now we have a government where all the Lebanese are

Indeed, the manner in which the country united in opposition to the raids, and in its efforts to deal with the humanitarian crisis, surprised and impressed even local commentators. Christian and Moslemowned news media stood firmly behind the government throughout the crisis, while Christian activists raised money for the Moslem refugees. "There is a great sense of unity," says Mr Mishlawi, "in contrast to the 1982 Israeli

This unity, however, is a modest, albeit necessary, starting point for Lebanon's mammoth remaining task. And the past eight days have spotlighted more starkly than ever the extent to which success in rebuilding the country will depend ultimately on the broader success of Middle East oeace talks.

Hizbollah's attacks into Israel, the pretext for Israel's resulting collective punishment of the south, occurred outside the control of Lebanon's government. It also took days of talks in Damascus, under US pressure, between Iran and Syria, Hizbollah's sponsors, to win an "understanding" that there would be no further rocket attacks into Israel, "All we have seen in the last few days is a proxy war one political analyst, "fighting

to the last Lebanese. Mr al-Hariri acknowledges that his dream for Lebanon durable Middle East peace. But he refuses to believe that in its absence investors will fight shy of the country. "There are people also who take risks," he says. "And I have a lot of friends - don't forget my background."

'Security zone' withdrawal seen as way to peace

By Mark Nicholson in Beirut

IF Israel's aim was to destroy Hizbollah with its seven-day bombardment, then it failed. according to Mr Rafik al-Hariri, Lebanon's prime minister. He said the only way to end any threat from the pro-Iracommit itself to withdraw from its self-declared "security zone" in south Lebanon.

After such a commitment, and even before actual withdrawal, Lebanon and Israel could set up a joint security committee for the south and address the question of security in north Israel, Mr al-Hariri said.

In an interview with the FT. he said: "The Israelis give us two options," adding: "Either we disarm Hizbollah and risk entering into a civil war because Israel is still occupy ing the country, or Israel destroys our country. But there is a third option - that they commit to withdraw from south Lebanon, then there will be no need for resistance

against them." Mr al-Hariri's remarks follow government statements that it could not act against Hizboliah while the group had the legitimising "political cover" of Israel's presence in the 15km "security zone" in south Lebanon. Neither, officials said, could the govern-

of resistance against Israeli targets within that zone. The government is aware it must do nothing to risk reigniting the sectarian fighting that consumed the country in its 17-year civil war. But officials understand the threat Hizbollah poses both to the Middle East peace process and, potentially also, to the newly united Lebanese government

ment publicly oppose any acts

The government believes, however, that a strengthened Lebanese army could contain northern Israel, but only if the Israelis commit themselves to

Under the ceasefire "understanding" that silenced Israeli guns on Saturday, Hizbollah has apparently undertaken to cease Katyusha rocket attacks into Israeli territory - the pre-text for Israel's bombardment. restrained by the knowledge that further attacks would bring a powerful Israeli reprisal which could, in turn, draw siderable hostility against them from the thousands of

to their battered villages. Syria, which has 35,000 troops in Lebanon, has clearly been decisive in obtaining the coasefire "understanding". under what appears to have been considerable US pressure. Agreement to end bombardment may help revive Mideast peace process

Israel's hopes rise after ceasefire deal

ISRAEL'S government was quick vesterday to claim success for its seven-day bombardment of southern Lebanon aimed at curbing rocket attacks by Arab guerrillas against the country's northern

However, as Israel continued withdrawing tanks and troops from its self-styled security zone in southern Lebanon after a US-arranged ceasefire at the weekend Israeli politicians and military officials were left wondering how solid any gains will be in the long term. Despite severe international

condemnation and the threats posed to the already stalled Middle East peace process by Israel's devastating onslaught against Lebanese civilians, optimistic Israeli politicians and analysts believe they can turn the crisis into an opportu-

Much depends on the details of the secret deal arranged by Mr Warren Christopher, US secretary of state, and the reaction of Arab states to Israel's

latest military action during restrict Hizbollah's ability to Mr Christopher's current visit

For its part, Israel believes the unwritten agreement involving Syria, Lebanon and Israel can pave the way to a more permanent and durable solution in the Middle East.

What is known about the deal is that Israel has ceased its offensive in return for vague assurances that Syria will rein in the pro-Iranian Hizbollah guerrillas and Lebanon will increasingly restrict the Islamic militia – demonstrated yesterday as the Lebanese army mounted increased checkpoints on roads into the south, stopping cars carrying armed Hizbollah.

But the agreement does not provide for the disarming of Hizbollah or an end to their attacks against Israeli troops and their proxies in the secu-rity zone and so leaves the underlying security issues

In the short term Israel claims it has stopped Katyusha rocket attacks from Hizbollah and has committed the governments of Lebanon and Syria to launch further attacks.

that the hand of President

The new-found Israeli praise

For their part, Lebanon and Syria have halted a military onslaught that threatened to destabilise Lebanon and derail the considerable gains made by the nine-month-old Lebanese government towards a restoration of law and order, security and economic rehabilitation. it is also immediately clear

Hafez al-Assad of Syria has been strengthened. Last week US President Bill Clinton praised "Syrian restraint" during the Israeli operation and even Israeli leaders have softened to the man who has been their enemy for more than a quarter of a century.

Gen Ehud Barak, chief of staff, said: "President Assad is a tough and bitter rival but we can't ignore the fact that he is a very serious, responsible and highly reliable leader."

for Mr Assad has fuelled speculation that the ceasefire agreement could have deeper aims than merely stopping the latest conflict and be the start of a broader agreement capable of



Israeli troops, deployed in civil defence and rescue operations, celebrate the ceaselire

reviving the moribund Middle East peace process. Certainly this is Israel's hope.

"This is a deal which is the first of its kind between the triangle of Israel, Syria and Lebanon," said Mr Evyatar Manor, foreign ministry spokesman. If it holds, it can create an atmosphere of wheeling and dealing between the three sides which could break the deadlock in the talks." But the deeper details of the deal remain obscure. Israeli

commentators believe Mr

Assad has extracted a price for

his "restraint" which involves as a minimum, a US promise to consider favourably removing Syria from the blacklist of countries which support terrorism - opening the way to US finance and investme

After 20 months of talks the peace process remains deadlocked and each side accuses the other of stalling. Israel says Mr Christopher will focus his visit on how to unblock this deadlock and use the unwritten ceasefire agreement as a springboard to speed up Syria-Lebanon-Israel talks.

Israel hopes that Mr Christo pher will have emerged with enhanced status by chalking up his first success as a peace broker in the Middle East and that he will step up US involve ment in the peace process, make bolder initiatives and bring all sides closer to an

Mr Yossi Beilin, deputy for-eign minister, said the cease-fire agreement deal should be conducive to peace because Mr Christopher had opened new channels of communication between leaders in the region.

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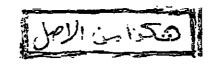
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Newspapers wage a war of words Politicians

By Christopher Parkes in Frankfurt, John Ridding in

PARIS is a mistress which Bonn can no longer afford to keep, the Die Welt am Sonntag newspaper suggested yesterday. The relationship endangered the stability of the Ger-

man currency, it claimed.
In a signed editorial under the headline "Ritual", the conservative Hamburg-based_Sunday newspaper warned Chan-cellor Heimut Kohl to resist any appeals from France for renewed solidarity or an acceleration towards a mini-monetary union centred on the franc and D-Mark.

Acceptance of such or similar wishes from Paris by the chancellor would attack the Bundesbank from the rear," it said. The German central bank well knew that a second currency union within five years would mean the end of the D-Mark's stability.

In France, however, the press pointed the finger of blame for the latest ERM crisis at Germany - particularly the Bundeshank - and at "Anglo-Saxon" speculators. The targets reflect a fraying of relations with France's closest ally and a belief that France differs from the UK and the US in its economic principles.

The quality French newspapers were careful to draw the distinction between the German political and monetary authorities, acknowledging it was the decision by the Bundesbank not to cut its principal interest rate last week which brought about the ERM's most

By Emma Tucker,

THE Bundesbank's decision to

leave its discount rate

unchanged last week was justi-

fied on the grounds that

domestic inflation needed to be

kept under control. But by ref-

using to ease monetary policy.

the German central bank may

have created a new inflation-

The unprecedented levels of

intervention by the bank to

prop up the franc - which

slipped to its floor in the

exchange rate mechanism after

the decision - mean that the

German authorities now face a

sharp jump in the money sup-

inflation in the long term.

oly, which could lead to higher

An estimated DM50bn

(£19.4bn) was spent by the

bank on Friday alone, money

that was not previously in cir-

culation. The expectation that

the extra D-Marks in the econ-

omy will further expand Ger-

ary problem for itself.

"The members of the Bund-esbank council are acting like provincial managers," said Le Figaro. "The EMS is built around the D-Mark, those who guard the key currency also have international responsibili-

in the popular press, the distinction between Bonn and the Rundeshank is blurred and the criticism becomes sharper. "By putting the interests of 'greater Germany first, the Bonn government has isolated itself, says Le Quotidien, the rightwing daily. "It has already lost its friends and tomorrow the consequences of this Prussian obstinacy may seriously jeopardise its own prosperity. Die Welt am Sonntag, mean-while, said the grounds for Mr

Jacques Delors' recent procla-mation that the French franc could soon replace the D-Mark as the lead currency in the European monetary system could only be found by using psychiatric methodology. The editorial's author, Mr Harald Hotze, an old Brussels

hand, referred to the "trauma" in the early 1980s when Mr Delors, now president of the European Community and then French finance minister. sought three franc devaluations within 16 months.

In Italy, a front-page edito-rial in Corriere della Sera said Germany had in effect given up its European leadership role when the Bundesbank put national interests before those of the EC and refused to cut its "The leadership of a system

implies that a country is willing and able to take account of the interests of member states and subordinate its national interests to these."

In contrast, many German editorials underlined the enduring popular obsession in the country with monetary stability - a condition in which the Bundesbank consistently enjoys more popular credibility than the government or Euro-

The Sunday edition of the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zei-

Belgian franc and the Danish

krone precisely because these countries lack "sound and sta-

ble domestic economic condi-

France's difficulties are

obvious from the charts. Ger-

many sets the interest rate

floor in the ERM. But, trou-

bled by rising consumer price inflation, the Bundesbank is

keeping its rates high. Because

France's inflation rate is half

that of Germany, it means painfully high real interest

rates. The result is falling out-

put, rising unemployment and

popular discontent

est rate cuts were "forbidden". The French press believes UK and US attitudes towards currencies are also a factor behind the ERM's troubles. "The war between the interna-tional speculators and the cen-

Anglo-Saxon ideologies, the

In the Anglo-Saxon view, says Le Monde, currencies are simply commodities. For the French, however, who subscribe to the "continental" ideal, a currency is a measure of value within a nation and is not like other goods. Currencies must, in this view, be

For Le Monde and other French newspapers this differing perception helps explain why international currency traders, dubbed "Anglo-Saxon speculators", have attacked the European exchange rate mechanism. Hostile to a fixed currency system, the speculators have bet that the French economy cannot sustain the high level of interest rates which would be needed to fend off

For Le Figaro, the motives of the speculators are deeper. "The currency traders are in favour of universal free trade. They are hostile to a European protectionism concerning Gatt of which they suspect France

tung went beyond the central bank's normally muted statements: a glance at German inflation and money supply figures would show further intertwo cultures," said Le Monde in an editorial. "One is inspired by liberal

other by a more continental, dirigiste, ideal." assured a certain stability.

usurp the technocrats

THERE was a sense of history unfolding in Brussels yesterday afternoon as finance ministers trooped into offices near the empty shell of the Berlaymont, former headquarters of the European Commission.

The presence of the politicians - who were noticeably absent nine months ago when sterling and the lira crashed out of the exchange rate mech-anism - showed that this time everyone grasped an essential truth. The latest crisis was too important to leave to the technocrats alone.

At stake was the future of European monetary co-opera-tion based on a Franco-German axis, and the more elusive goal of European monetary union.

On Saturday, after more than six hours of deliberations, the technocrats of the EC monetary committee had been unable to reach agreement on

plan to save the ERM. The impasse underlined unresolved tensions between France and Germany over the Bundesbank's refusal to lower short-term interest rates.

Germany called for both the monetary committee and ministers' meetings in the hope that a decisive action plan could be endorsed at the highest level among the 12 member states, before financial markets reopened today.

The EC monetary committee

comprised of senior central and Treasury officials - discussed several options for defusing the ERM crisis. But according to informed sources, officials could only agree to the principle that the European monetary system and its exchange rate grid had to be preserved.

European monetary officials said France's determination to resist a devaluation of the franc had increased pressure on the Bundesbank to lower short-term rates after its largely technical move on Thursday.

The broader French strategy seemed aimed at forcing Bonn to make a choice: either to break publicly with its traditional ally in Paris, or to twist arms at the central bank to lower the key discount rate.

Germany's decision to call the emergency meetings political pressures. But it also pointed to Bundesbank worries that unitmited intervention on hebalf of the French franc risked an inflationary bloating of Germany's money supply, as during last September's ERM crisis which led to the forced exit of sterling and the lira.

tained significant drawbacks and are believed to include: A suspension of the ERM for a limited period. The attraction of an "extended vacation" for the EMS currencies from the ERM grid was that it would prevent France losing face; it would introduce much-needed flexibility into the system; and it could be defended as the best chance of restoring economic growth in the EC through lower interest rates. But allowing currencies to

for easing the crisis. All con-

float would jeopardise the single market and would amount to a grievous blow to the Maastricht treaty's goal of European monetary union by the end of the century.

The forced exit of several currencies from the ERM, including the franc. This might make practical sense, as it would almost certainly allow France and Spain to lower interest rates. But it would encourage talk of a "two-tier" ERM, undermining France's 10year policy of maintaining parity with the D-Mark.

A deal involving a devaluation of the franc in return for a cut in the German discount rate. This would be a significant climbdown for the Bundesbank, but analysts recalled that a similar political trade-off last September involving a cut in German rates in return for a devaluation of the lira failed to prevent the Black Wednesday

☐ A widening of the fluctuation bands within the ERM beyond their current level of 2.25 per cent (excluding the Spanish peseta and Portuguese escudo).

This would avoid an official devaluation of the franc but would amount to a de facto depreciation, which was counter to the franc fort policy. It might also be dismissed as a ruse to buy time.

As ministers and officials laboured yesterday to come up with a convincing deal it was clear the outcome would have profound political and economic repercussions for the European Community.

If the Bundesbank agreed to a discount rate cut, this would amount to a humiliating public U-turn. How such a retreat would play before the German stitutional court which is currently reviewing the Maastricht treaty - was another matter

On the other hand, a French devaluation and/or a suspension of the ERM would be viewed as a devastating blow to European monetary

Swimming against economic tide

AMID the turmoil and confusion of the past few days, one fact emerges ever starker: politics and diplomacy can no more resist the logic of international economic forces than King Canute could turn back an incoming tide, writes

But the willingness of Europe's leaders to blame "speculators" for the crisis suggests the politicians themselves have yet to take this fact on board.

Yesterday's comments from Mr Mogens Lykketoft, Danish finance minister, were typical. "The government and the cen-tral bank is in total agreement that we, under no circumstances, will let those who speculate against the crown win." he said in a newspaper interview. "My opinion is that we can resist the speculators

The EC's central bank gover-

Bank may have fuelled

many's already fast-growing

money supply is more acute

The estimated DM65bn of

intervention over two days

during this crisis compares

with DM90bn used over two

months at the end of last sum-

mer. As a result German M3

growth will creep upwards, as

it did then, although the Bund-

esbank will try to "sterilise"

the impact of extra liquidity.

Sterilisation occurs when monetary authorities offset

extra domestic liquidity cre-

ated through foreign exchange

operations by withdrawing

liquidity from the system, usu-

ally by issuing government

debt. According to Mr Thomas

Mayer of Goldman Sachs, the

merchant bank, no lasting

impact on the domestic econ-

omy results from intervention.

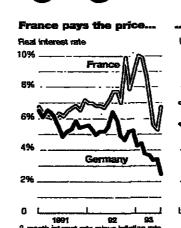
provided it is sterilised at some

stage. The Bundesbank success-

fully sterilised the impact of its

intervention on the foreign

inflationary flames



nors are also inclined to blame the markets. "In an environment of full freedom of capital movements," they wrote in April, "massive speculative exchange rate pressures may arise even in a situation when

exchanges in August and Sep-

tember, although M3 growth

was boosted for several

So far the bank has been

slow to mop up the excess

liquidity, worried that to do so

too promptly would send the

wrong signal to foreign

exchange markets. According

to Ms Alison Cottrell, interna-

tional economist at Midland

Global Markets, swift sterilisa-

tion may have been interpreted

by foreign exchange dealers as

a sign that the Bundesbank

was anticipating further inter-

Ms Cottrell believes the

Bundesbank will act to tighten

liquidity some time in the near

future. In the meantime, the

domestic German economy is

so depressed that while the

Bundesbank can wave goodbye

to its M3 targets, it does not

have to worry about the infla-

tionary pressures of the vast

amounts of D-Marks flooding

months.

central parities are backed up by sound and stable domestic economic conditions.

But Europe's problem is not excessive speculation. The international investors are selling the French franc, the

The judgment of the markets seems now to be that the politcal need to prevent the collapse of the ERM will prove weaker than the economic imperative for lower interest rates. In which case, only a solution to the crisis which est rates is likely to satisfy.

MR Kenneth Clarke, Britain's chancellor of the exchequer (pictured above on arrival in Brussels), was seeking yesterday to play the honest broker between the warring factions in continental Europe as finance ministers met, writes Peter Marsh in Brussels.

There were suggestions in the Belgian capital that he would use the UK experience to offer a constructive way out of the exchange rate mechanism impasse, perhaps by suggesting that other countries follow Britain's lead and

allowing lower interest rates. There have been signs of an upturn in the UK economy since Britain left the mechanism last September. However, the chancellor was thought to be keen not to alienate Germany and France. He

Mr Clarke faces domestic pressure to lower base rates, held at 6 per cent since January.

said the UK would be "helpful" and wanted "a

sensible solution" that would assist European

-Mark remains the investors'

become the victim of its own success. The European exchange rate mechanism was supposed to be the route to low inflation. But the irony of last week's turmoil was that the currencies the markets were selling the French franc, the Danish krone and the Belgian franc - were under pressure because their inflation rates are currently too low. If any country deserves to be punished for veering off the low inflation road, it is Germany and not France. So why should French virtue be so badly rewarded?

The reason is that the D-Mark remains, at least for now, the ERM's anchor currency. And being the anchor of a system of semi-fixed exchange rates, such as the ERM, means setting the interest rate floor. The ERM's current problem is that this floor, while appropriate for dangerously and unsustainably

high real interest rates for the low inflation countries.

the anchor ought to be the country which, on average, has the lowest inflation rate. Because inflation is expected to erode the anchor currency's value less than the other currencies, investors will accept a lower return for holding it.

Three years after German reunifi-German inflation stood at 4.2 per cent: the highest of all the countries

But hold on: theory suggests that

The first chart shows why the D-Mark was the clear anchor for the system during the first decade of the ERM's existence. During the years 1978-87 German inflation was by far the lowest of the member countries at an average of 3.2 per cent a year. Consumer prices in France rose more than twice as fast over the period, with an average annual inflation of 8.8 per cent.

cation, however, this argument no longer seems to apply. In June 1993 in the ERM's northern "core". If low inflation is the prime qualification for the anchor currency then, by rights, Denmark and Ireland should

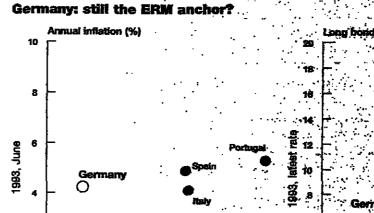
now share the honour. Yet the Danish and Irish finance ministers have made no such claims, while the French finance minister, who suggested the franc could be the new ERM anchor, has been punished by the markets for what now seems a piece of grand hubris. Mr Theo Waigel, Germany's finance minster, this weekend reaffirmed the D-Mark's continuing and vital role as the ERM anchor.

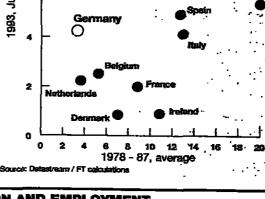
How can Mr Waigel still make this claim? The explanation is that a country's long-term inflation prospects are what matter to investors when they are evaluating a currency's relative risk and return. The right-hand chart measures the markets' long-term predictions for inflation in all of the ERM countries as implied by the yield on long-term

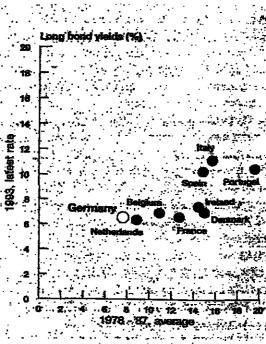
government bonds. It is easy to see why Germany was judged by far the best low inflation bet during the first decade of the ERM. But, despite Germany's current problems, the Bundesbank's reputation for delivering low inflation remains intact. Only the Netherlands has a marginally lower long-term bond yield than Germany: 6.4 per cent

compared with 6.6 per cent. So, for all Germany's current difficulties, investors do not think that future German inflation will remain higher than in other ERM coun tries. Whether the D-Mark will remain the anchor currency will depend on whether the Bundesbank's high interest rate policy succeeds in bringing German inflation under control. If, that is, there is still an ERM for it to anchor.

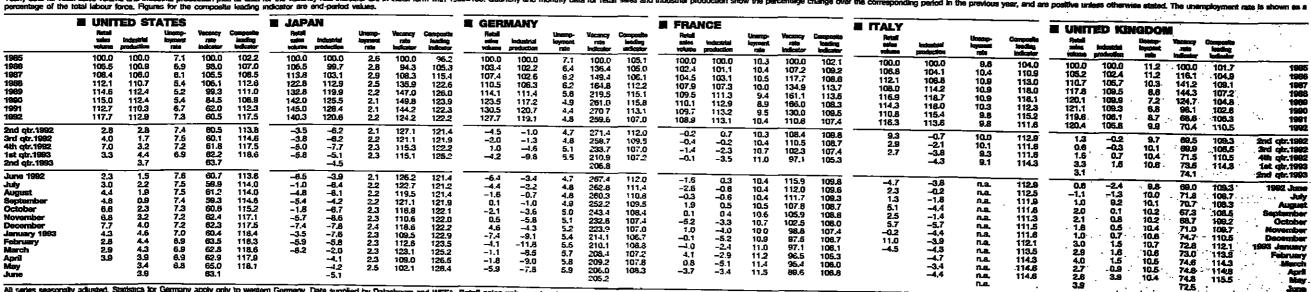
Stephanie Flanders and Edward Balls







INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC INDICATORS: PRODUCTION AND EMPLOYMENT



ent sources except Japan and Italy (value series defiated by OECD using CPI). Refers to total retail as g only and LIK (also includes construction industries). Unemployment rate: OECD standardised rate is a structure.

Babangida set to delay handover

By Paul Adams in Lagos . .

NIGERIA's President Ibrahim Bahangida looks set to remain in office beyond the promised August 27 handover to civilian

At a weekend meeting in Abuja, the federal capital, with officials of the country's two political parties it was decided that plans to re-run presidential elections by that date were not leasible, and a new interim government would be estab-

Although no official At the Abuja meeting the announcement has been made, two army-created political par-Aithough no official the decision seems likely to

Leopard skin

a tightrope

HE LEOPARD skin had

definitely seen better days. Now, splayed under the throne of the future

king of Buganda, the tired car-

cass was stubbornly refusing

As the crown prince approached hoisted on the

shoulders of his subjects, the

court attendants abandoned

their struggle with the leop-

ard's jaws and rushed to pros-

trate themselves before Ronald

Muwenda Mutebi II, formerly

of Shoreditch, London, who on

Saturday was crowned the 36th

For a one-time double-

glazing salesman who lived most of his life in Britain,

Ronnie was bearing up well to

the rituals of his ancient Afri-

can kingdom. After visiting his

father's mummified umbilical

cord, and leading his army into

battle before dawn, the Kabaka was bathed in the seclusion of

Runnie was carried up the

slopes of Buddo hill to a spot

marked by the gnarled roots of a sacred tree, where his ancestors had been crowned for the

As Queen Elizabeth II could

have warned him, the ditties of

a monarch can be onerous. So,

hoisted upon the Kabaka under

the sweltering morning sun. Over his white tunic went four

togas made of bark cloth. A

cow hide on his back would

ensure food for his people. A

leopard skin on his chest

would give him valour. Two

spears and a shield for those

troublesome little wars and a

calabash of water to quench

The royal paraphernalia was

topped by a sequined crown, which appeared to double as a

fly-whisk. At 9.55am, Ronnie

rose to beat a sonorous royal

drum. The crowd went wild.

a but of papyrus reeds. Then, propelled by thou-sands of delirious subjects,

past 600 years.

his thirst

Kabaka (king) of Buganda.

to bare its fangs.

king must walk

Heavy is Londoner's crown, say Leslie Crawford and Joel Kibazo

democracy for the fourth time replace the Transitional Counin three years,

It will also extend a period of strained international relations and means further delay in efforts to reschedule the country's external debt of \$33bn (F22.1bn) and resolve its balance of payments crisis.

Western governments have already imposed visa restrictions and reduced military links with the Nigerian government in response to the annul-ment of June's presidential

the decision seems likely to ties agreed to take part in an prolong the transition to interim government which will

His reign had begun. The 4m Baganda, Uganda's

largest tribe, are celebrating

the restoration of their monar

chy after a 27-year ban as the

event of the century. Ronnie's father, Muteesa II,

who was also independent

Uganda's first president, was

forced into exile in 1966 by Mil-

ton Obote, the ambitious prime

minister who became Uganda's

uncrowned dictator, Muteesa

II, known as King Freddie to

his friends, died in alcoholic

penury in Britain three years

"Since then," says Wasswa Birigwa, a coffee trader who is

the royal chief of protocol, "we

have been like children lost in

But he explains: "We

Baganda are rediscovering our traditions. The Kabakaship is

President Yoweri Museveni, who has ruled Uganda since 1986, agreed to restore the

Kabaka and Uganda's three other tribal kingdoms after

long negotiations which care-

fully circumscribed the role of

kings to cultural and ceremo-nial functions.

But many in the royal entourage are already suffering from

delusions of grandeur. Birigwa, the protocol chief, sees the

establishment of a permanent

royal court and an executive

office staffed by "managers,

financiers and lawyers" that

would execute the king's poli-

our cultural reservoir."

cil, a group of civilians appointed by the president to assist in the handover to democratic rule due on August 27.

They will form a joint committee with some of Gen Babangida's senior military personnel, including the intelligence chief Brigadier-General Halilu Akilu, Lt-Gen Aliyu Mohammed, the head of national security, and Brig John Shagaya, an influential field commander in the north_

"We should... see the interim government as a consensus arrangement for concluding the transitional agenda of this administration, which

was disrupted by the imperative need to nullify the June 12 presidential elections," Gen Babangida said.

واجمان

Details of the new government, including its tenure, will be worked out by Vice-President Augustus Aikhomu, officlals of the two parties and Mr Ernest Shonekan, who heads a transitional council installed in January and responsible for day-to-day administration.

Significantly, Gen Babangida did not reaffirm his previous commitment to step down on August 27. "We are still in an endless transition to civil rule," commented House of Representatives member Tok-

umbo Afikuyomi: "It's like Jesus Christ's second coming Promised for so long but noone except the Lord knows

when it will happen."
The president's decision could lead to a split in the Social Democratic party (SDP) between those who are coopted in the coalition and the supporters of Mr Moshood Abiola, the successful candidate in the June elections.

Mr Abtola has so far rejected the interim government and claimed that only he has any mandate to rule in Nigeria. He enjoys strong popular support in Lagos and most of southern Nigeria.

Liberian ceasefire

A CEASEFIRE signed a week ago to end Liberia's civil war came into effect successfully at midnight on Saturday, a West African military force officer said yesterday, Reuter reports

military force.
Mr Addah said some fighters
of Mr Charles Taylor's rebel National Patriotic Front for Liberta (NPFL) had tried to surrender at Ecomog lines in the Buchanan area, south-east of Monrovia.

"We told them to go back to by India's 1.8m truckers yestertheir positions until we set the

yer said: "The guns of war in the Liberian crisis are silent for ever. The NPFL's radio station urged fighters to return to their homes and rebuild More than 150,000 people

have been killed in three and a

in force

from Monrovia.
"All sides seem to be observ-

ing the ceasefire. I think everybody is fed up with the fighting," said Mr John Addah. deputy field commander of Ecomog, the joint west African

day, arresting 10 leaders at the process of disarmament in start of a protest against transport taxes. Reuter reports from New Delhi. motion. We want them to be able to benefit from the rehabilitation programme." he said. In a speech to the nation interim President Amos Saw-

ern state of Orissa arrested the leaders at their homes, while others went underground to evade arrest. Orissa authorities have declared illegal the indefinite strike, which started at midnight on Saturday. Under special powers. India's

half years of warfare, according to the United Nations.

Alice, Texas, by Mr Michael Ford, a Hong Kong-based barrister who represented Canco at the coroner's inquest. Mr Ford is suing Capco and

The lawsuit has been filed in

sult the attorney-general.

Exxon accused

over explosion

in Hong Kong

By Simon Davies in

EXXON of the US and China

Light and Power, the Hong

Kong utility company, have

been accused of withholding

crucial information from a

Hong Kong government inves-

tigation into an explosion at

their jointly-owned Castle Peak

power station. The allegations

were made in a US\$125m (£83.8m) legal action filed in

They are alleged to have

detailed internal report which

August killed two workers. A

coroner's verdict of accidental

death was given, but the latest allegations could lead to a

Mr John Leigh, CLP's com-pany secretary, said yesterday in an official statement that

the allegations were "without

merit". However, he said the Castle Peak Power Company

(Capco), which is 60 per cent

owned by Exxon and 40 per cent by CLP, intended to con-

POLICE moved against a strike

The Press Trust of India

reported that police in the east-

Indian police arrest

truck strike leaders

training" at the plant.

reopening of the inquest.

Hong Kong

five Exxon group companies. claiming damage to his reputation, loss of income and emotional distress after he was dismissed during the inquest. If successful, this could trigger further legal action by the widows of the two men who died in the accident.

Mr Ford alleges he was instructed to hold back releremoved "vital evidence from the scene of the explosion", and to have held back a vant material from the inquest. After refusing to comply he had suggested "inadequate and was dismissed in such a manimproper maintenance and ner as to "create the impression that the plaintiff had been The explosion of two hydroremoved because of incompe gen cylinders at the plant last tence, dishonesty or unethical behaviour".

CLP has responded by seek-ing an injunction in Hong Kong to prevent Mr Ford disclosing confidential information obtained while he was rep-

resenting the company. China Light and Power is the monopoly supplier of electricity to Kowloon and the New Territories of Hong Kong. Exxon owns 60 per cent of the in the colony

nlies. Refusal could mean six

months imprisonment and a

Rajasthan and Gujarat are

The truckers have vowed to

immobilise all freight until

New Delhi agrees to abolish

round of discussions planned

between truckers and govern-

ment officials, were likely to

two other states which have banned the strike. No arrests

have been reported there.

road and inter-state taxes. The arrests, ahead of another

harden the strikers' stand.

In the last two days the Thai press has reported with relish on an end-of-term "bachelor party held for MPs from the New Aspiration party in Bangkok's Emerald Hotel last Wednesday; the host was Mr Boonchu Trithong, a deputy finance minister and deputy NAP leader. The revelations have been

Bachelor

party no fun for

Thai MPs

THE THAI law forbidding

prostitution is probably the

least-enforced act in the world.

But even in Bangkok it is

unusual for 30 government

members of parliament to be

caught on the same night con-

sorting with women of doubt-

ful virtue - especially during

an official campaign against

the sex trade.

By Victor Mallet in Bangkok

denied by some of the embarrassed MPs - who described the girls variously as "artists", "singers" and "actresses" – but they have hardly stunned the nation. Gen Chavalit Yongchaiyudh,

the NAP leader who was not at the party, described the women as singers rather than prostitutes, but did nothing to dispel the notion that it was normal for MPs to cavort with prostitutes. "Had they been prostitutes, the party would have been held secretly," he

:131 G48

(")

The publicity is particularly embarrassing for the fiveparty coalition government because it has campaigned against prostitution, although the emphasis has been on protecting children used in the

Earlier this month, the govrnment banned the latest edition of Longman's Dictionary of English Language and Cul-ture, published by Pearson, owner of the Financial Times because it described Bangkok as being known for both its Buddhist temples and its pros-Thai women's organisations

have pointed out that it is useless for the government to try to improve the country's tarnished image if government officials are themselves



Buganda's new king: no wish to interfere in domestic politics

the Kabaka as a rallying figure for a secessionist movement. Diplomatically, the king says he has no wish to interfere in

The Kahaka, he points out, will soon come into hundreds of acres of royal land and buildings that were confiscated under Obote's rule. The Kabaka's income, he

says, could be used to spear-head national self-help and development as well as the standard royal favourites: charities, widows and orphans. King Ronnie, however, will be walking a political tightrope. There are many nostalgic Baganda who would like to use whom fought alongside his

President Museveni was the guest of honour amid the hundreds of invited dignitaries, African princes, scarlet-robed bishops and minor British nobility that made up Saturday's colourful medieval pag-

He watched the proceedings in silence. Some believe Museveni consented to the restora-tion of the Kabakaship to placate the Baganda, many of

guerrillas in the bush war that ousted Obote. A contented Baganda, the sceptics argue, are less likely to clamour for

multi-party democracy. But the jubilation on Saturday was genuine. As princesses ululated and shimmied to the beat of royal drums, and a cheering crowd carried Mutebi II away, one clan elder remembered the silent president.

"Museveni," he hailed at the top of his voice, "without you we would never have had our kingdom back. May you rule 100 years." It was the first time the president smiled.



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GM boost for car industry in Taiwan

GENERAL MOTORS of the US has signed a letter of intent with Taiwan's Economics Ministry to help develop the island's car industry, Reuter reports from Taipei.

The pact calls for GM and Taiwanese partners jointly to promote overseas markets and upgrade the capability of local car component manufacturers. The pact is the fifth such

agreement on a strategic alliance signed by Taipei, Mr Yang Shih Chien, Taiwan's vice-economics minister, said at a news conference at the weckend. Taiwan's car market has

been growing because of the buoming economy, with domestic car and truck production totalling 420,000 in 1992 compared with 290,000 in 1991. General Motors has a five-

year agreement with Taiwan's Chinese Automobile Co (CAC), announced earlier, under which CAC assembles Opel-Astra sedans on behalf of GM for Taiwan's domestic market. Production started last

month and monthly output is hetween 800 and 1,000 cars. This will jump to 2,000 in early 1994, CAC said, CAC has invested US\$45m (£30.2m) in the project, he added.

General Motors has also invested more than \$7.5m in local vehicle parts factories making some components for the Opel-Astras, CAC said.

Ex-ministers indicted in S Korea corruption drive

By John Burton in Secul

TWO former South Korean defence ministers have been indicted for allegedly accepting bribes in connection with military contracts. The indictments followed a

recent investigation by the government's Board of Audit and Inspection (BAI) into mili-tary procurement, which was conducted as part of the new civilian government's anti-corruption campaign.
Mr Lee Jong-koo and Mr Lee

Sang-hoon, both former military generals, served as defence ministers in the previ-ous government of President

A CONFRONTATION at South

Korea's Hyundai Heavy Indus-

tries, the world's largest ship-

yard, was averted at the week-

end as the company dropped

its threat to lock out 18,000

Labour-management negotia-

tions will resume on Friday

after workers take their annual

The government had hoped to end the two-month long

industrial dispute at Hyundai,

one-week summer holiday.

By John Burton

striking workers.

General Han Chu-sok, a for-mer air force chief of staff, was

Samsung Aerospace Industries.

The BAI probe was linked to also indicted on bribery charges. Six executives were fined

Wonlm (£823) each for giving bribes to the officials. They include Mr Chung Mong-koo, the chairman of Hyundai Precision & Industry and a son of the founder of the Hyundai group, Korea's largest con-Mr Chung is alleged to have

bribed officials for contracts sociated with the Korean K-1 tank, which is produced by his company. Other businessmen fined

included the vice-chairman of Korean Air and an adviser to

efforts by President Kim Young-sam to curb the power of the military, which formerly ruled the country. Nineteen senior officers were recently purged for their role

in the 1979 coup. Several for-mer military chiefs also face charges of accepting bribes in return for granting promo-It is widely believed, however, that military corruption was more widespread than that

The BAI probe was linked to

unearthed by the BAI. But its investigation was limited in scope because President Kim did not want to alienate the military further.

Lock-out threat dropped at Hyundai shipyard South Korea's biggest conglompay increase above the 4.7 per

> plunge the current account into a \$591m (£396.6m) deficit

erate, by the end of July.

in June after it posted a \$293m surplus in May. This was chiefly due to reduced motor vehicle exports resulting from a strike at

The Hyundai strikes have been blamed for helping to the group \$125m in lost sales.

Hyundai Motor. That dispute ided on July 23. HHI is the largest of four Hyundai subsidiaries still on strike. The union is seeking a

cent rise offered by management and demanding the reinstatement of fired union lead-The strike at HHI has cost

Workers at Hyundai Wood Industries are locked out, while a similar threat faces Hyundai Construction Equipment. The union at Hyundai Electrical Engineering rejected a proposed pay accord on Sat-

NEWS: UK

reform link to EC HQ

By Alison Smith

A MUCH-DELAYED overhaul of the law on trademarks, intended to simplify and modernise the system for registering and protecting them, is set to be brought forward in government legislation this

Pressing ahead with the move is intended to strengthen the UK's hand in its lobbying for London to be the site of the European Community trademark office. The office is among the institutions still awaiting a location, and no agreement is expected for some

The new law will also contain a provision allowing the UK to ratify the protocol to the Madrid Agreement, an international system for the protection of trademarks, making it easier for UK trademark owners to obtain protection in other countries.

The proposals are based on the white paper (policy docu-ment) published in September 1990. Until now, parliamentary time has not been found for a bill (draft legislation), because ministers have not given it

political priority. It will be the third piece of legislation for next session sponsored by the department of trade and industry, even though the government's business managers have sought to curb the number of bills. The DTI's other bills are the flagship measure on deregulation and the legislation to privatise British Coal. The bill has been bounced out of the programme before, but officials are confident that this time it will make

the statute book. The main elements of the bill are expected to be: a more flexible definition of the kinds of signs that may be treated as trademarks; a presumption that a mark ought to be registered unless there is some specific objection; simplified procedures for registering marks with the Trade Marks Registry; and improved protection for existing trademarks.

Trademark | Tory calls for 'whole political spectrum' to combat long-term unemployment

Minister seeks consensus on jobless

By David Goodhart,

MR DAVID HUNT, UK employment secretary, has called for a national consensus between the main political parties on a strategy for combat-

ting long-term unemployment.
Mr Hunt, a standard bearer of the left in the Tory Party, said at the weekend: "It has now become such an intractable problem that we must find a way of involving people from across the whole political spectrum. If you can get a general agreement it allows you to move away from stale argu-

ments about resources."

About a third of the 2.9m unemployed have been out of work for more than a year, and the proportion is likely to rise even if unemployment as a whole continues to fall.

Mr Hunt said he had received "indications" from many people "across the political and industrial spectum that they would be ready to work with the government. Although he would not name individuals Mr Hunt has a close relationship with Mr

Frank Field, the maverick

Labour MP and has also estab-

lished a rapport with Mr John

Monks, general secretary-elect of the Trades Union Congress. Mr Hunt has just returned from a short tour of the US. looking at workfare schemes, which require the unemployed to work for their benefit.

He said he had "reserva-tions" about the element of compulsion in such schemes and pointed out that the US had a very different, and generally less generous, benefit sys-tem from the UK's. But he also noted that it was the Democrats, and not the Republicans, who were now considering introducing a national work-fare scheme. "I think President

Clinton's friends in the Labour Party should take note of that " he said.

Mr Hunt saw only junior officials in the US Labor Department but he did reach agreement on funding a joint study of how the US economy has produced so many new jobs over the past few years. "Europe has a lot to learn from the US experience, but it seems that there is no clear idea in the US as to why they have been so successful," he said. More than half of British

Financial Times today suggests. Fear of redundancy appears to have increased sharply over the past few weeks, in spite of five successive monthly falls in unemployment and government claims that economic recovery is under way. In May, 43 per cent of those questioned by Mori said they were either "very concerned" or "fairly concerned" about the possibility of being made redundant or workers fear they could lose their jobs over the next 12 becoming unemployed over the next 12 months. By July this months, the latest in a

monthly series of Mori surveys published exclusively in the

the province, provide the basis for a

Significantly, Sinn Pein has substan-

negotiated end to the political violence.

tially moderated its tone over recent

months, and although it still argues

that Britain must go one step further

and make a commitment to militarily

and politically disengage from Northern

Ireland, it sets no deadline for this and

has been making increasingly concilia-

tory statements directed towards the

Mr Hume's key argument now looks

very shaky however, and with it his

hopes of ending the IRA bombing cam-

paign and eventually bringing Sinn

Fein into the peace process.
In private, the Republic's government

officials now talk about playing the

United States card - asking the Clinton

administration to appoint a "peace

envoy" to Northern Ireland. British

objections have until now restrained

Dublin from pushing this option. But the Tory-UUP "understanding" may

now mobilise the Republic's powerful

lobbyists in Washington, and trigger

the US's first direct involvement in

A further option might be for the

Republic to ease its 22-year broadcast-

ing ban on Sinn Fein. Mr Michael D.

Higgins, the minister responsible for

broadcasting is known to be opposed to

the ban. If it were to be eased in the

Republic, it would increase pressure for

Northern Ireland's affairs.



Britain in brief

UK banks 'second best' in W Europe

British banks are the second most efficient in western Europe after the French in terms of their ratio of costs to income, an analysis of human resources says. This is because the cost of employing staff outside Britain is on average 21/2

times higher.
The analysis by the financial services analysis company Laf-ferty Group finds that the proportion of cost to income per employee in 1990 was 25.3 per cent in Britain against 22.2 per cent in France. The highest rate was 41.7 per cent in Switzerland and 40.1 per cent in Italy.

The figures are based on data from 400 of the 500 largest banks in 25 European countries. They provide a benchmark for the year when most European banks were about to embark on cost-reduction programmes to improve staff efficiency after widespread expansion in the late

ing economy.

ICI plans big development

One of the largest commercial developments in Britain is being planned by Imperial Chemical Industries on 1,500 acres of surplus land it owns at Severnside near Bristol. It believes that eventually there could be employment for over 18.000 people. ICI describes the land, which

is adjacent to its Severnside works, as a "major strategic holding" for which it is now bringing forward a "master plan" for a range of business and industrial use. "We have a fantastic opportunity and will provide competition for every a review of a similar ban in the UK end | major site in the region," said Mr Andrew Start, ICI's group

property manager The company will not act as the sole developer but is in informal discussions about partnerships which might take the form of joint ventures or a

consortium.
"We will invest money to enhance the landholding but there is no prospect of ICI entering into development as a risk taker. We are concentrating on our core businesses," Mr Sturt said.

Rising output brings jobs

Rising output from British industry produced an increase in manufacturing employment in July for the first time in two years, the latest monthly survey of purchasing managers shows.

And a Confederation of British Industry quarterly survey today says smaller manufacturing companies are planning to spend more on plant and machinery in the next year -the first planned increase in investment in more than four

The Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply said its purchasing managers' index fell slightly to 53.0 per cent from 53.7 per cent last month: but was still above the key 50% level which indicates expansion in the manufactur-

City plan to fight bombers

Corporation of London, the City's local authority, is expected to publish a set of propos-als tomorrow designed to reduce the risk of further bomb attacks by the IRA. The most controversial measure being considered is the creation of permanent security cordon. This would involve maintaining the mad blocks and checkpoints installed two months ago. The Corporation will also propose a range of surveillance measures to improve security. These include an increased number of security cameras, neighbourhood watch schemes and greater coordination of companies' security staff and camera systems.

The price to be paid for Major's majority government's professed neutrality in the round-table talks process and its statement of "no strategic interest" in

Irish agreement, and a crisis in Anglo-Irish relations, could be the price to be paid for Mr John Major's courtship of the Ulster Unionist party (UUP) at Westminster to secure a work-

ing majority for the government.

The crushing defeat of the Tories at the Christchurch by-election last Thursday, leaving the Conservatives with a majority of just 17, and continuing threats of rebellion on the Tory backbenches has given the UUP leader Mr James Molyneaux a rare opportunity.

He has long been looking to drive a wedge between London and Dublin, and to reverse what Unionists perceive to be the growing influence of the Republic of Ireland in Northern Ireland's affairs. in return for the support of his nine MPs. Mr Molyneaux said last week that he has reached an "understanding" with Mr Major. Mr Major and the government have repeatedly denied that a deal was struck.

Mr Ken Maginnis, the UUP deputy leader explained "there has not been any last-minute deal signed up in legal terms". Instead. talks have being going on for months he said "resulting from government frustration with the Northern Ireland round-table talks process and the intransigence of the Irish government and the SDLP.

"The government has for some time been indicating a willingness, if all else fails, to consider changes in the way Northern Ireland is to be governed". This would, according to Mr Maginnis, be a gradual process "over the

Tim Coone says the PM's 'understanding' with the Ulster Unionist Party may end with Dublin seeking a US 'peace envoy'

remaining period of this parliament". Some of the changes envisaged by the UUP include the establishment of a Northern Ireland Select Committee at Westminster, the broadening of local government powers in the province. and "greater attention being paid to persons with experience in security issues. I include myself amongst them. Asked whether these changes would signify the abandonment of the 1985

Anglo-Irish agreement Mr Maginnis said "I certainly hope so". This has set alarm bells jangling in Dublin. Mr Albert Reynolds, the Irish prime minister, said last week that he would be "very concerned" by any unilateral moves made by the British government on Northern Ireland.

One of his aides expanded upon this saying "If a clear warning is made to London that any unilateral move would be viewed as undermining the Anglo-Irish agreement, but they go ahead and do it anyway, then one can only conclude that this would lead to a major crisis in Anglo-Irish relations".

In Belfast, a spokesman for the nationalist SDLP party, led by Mr John Hume, said "This is an integrationist move, making Northern Ireland similar to Scotland or Wales and ignores the fact that we have a divided community

here, where a large part of the popula tion consider themselves Irish". He said that Mr Molyneaux's understanding with Mr Major "signifies a dead-end for

the talks process. Hitherto, the British government has professed neutrality in the talks process saying it has no preferred outcome. A key phrase used by Sir Patrick May-hew, the Northern Ireland secretary of state, and first coined by his predecessor, Mr Peter Brooke, was that Britain has "no strategic interest" in Northern

ince last April Mr John Hume has been involved in bilateral talks with Mr Gerry Adams, the leader of Sinn Fein - the political wing of the Irish Republican Army - a move which has angered Unionists but which Mr Hume says is aimed at bringing the political violence to an end. Unionists accuse Mr Hume, Sinn Fein

and Dublin of trying to set up a "Pannationalist front". Although there has been discomfiture in Dublin the official government reaction is that "Mr Hume is an experienced politician and knows what he is doing

According to those close to the Hume-Adams talks, one of Mr Hume's key arguments has been that the British

CONTRACTS & TENDERS

BEZEQ - THE ISRAEL TELECOMMUNICATION CORP. LTD.

Bids for the supply of the goods detailed below are hereby invited:

TENDER NO. 94/92/101/1

Supply: Basic telephone & spare parts purchase under a multi-year agreement

1. Term of the agreement: 3 years with an option for an additional year. 2 Bezeq reserves the right to negotiate the details of their bids with all or any of the bidders.

3. Prior conditions: as detailed in the tender documents.

4. The tender documents and further details may be obtained from the Tenders and Orders Department of the Purchasing Dept., at 1 Hasoreg Street, Jerusalem, Israel, on Sundays to Thursday, telephone:

The Tender Documents may be obtained by a written application and a receipt for a non-refundable deposit in the amount of U.S. \$350.00 to Union Bank, Main Branch, Jerusalem, Israel, account no. 13-051 8800-68. Both may be sent to the following fax no. +972-2-241001 (Orna or Silvi).

5. The bids should be submitted in the following two stages: (a) Stage A. Technical material and brochures on the telephone model offered should be deposited in the

tenders" box at the above address by no later than noon on 11th of August 1993. No prices or other details besides that required above should be included in stage A. The material should be delivered in an envelope marked: Tender 94/92/101/1 - Stage A. The Bids of suppliers who do not submit the material required in stage A at the time specified will not be considered.

(b) Stage B. The prices and telephone models offered should be submitted. The bids should be deposited in the "tenders" box at the above address by no later than noon on the 8th of September 1993. The bids should be submitted in an envelope marked: Tender 94/92/101/1 - Stage B. The models should be submitted in a separate package on which the tender number and bidder's name are

6. Bezeq is not obligated to accept the cheapest or any bid or to order the whole quantity from one

Bids by fax or telex will not be accepted.

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BEZEQ - THE ISRAEL TELECOMMUNICATION CORP. LTD.

Bids for the supply of the goods detailed below are hereby invited: **TENDER NO. 16/93/100**

Supply: Copper Telephone Cables for the Local Telephone Network According to Bezeq's Specifications

- 1. Option: Bezeq reserves the right to purchase up to an additional 100% of the quantities in the above mentioned tender within two years.
- Bezeq reserves the right to negotiate the details of their bids with all or any of the bidders.
- 3. The tender documents and further details may be obtained from the Tenders and Orders department of the Purchasing Dept., at 1 Hasoreg Street, Jerusalem, Israel, Sundays to Thursdays, telephone: +972 2-395614,5 or 395620.

The tender documents may be obtained by submitting a written application and a receipt for a non refundable deposit in the amount of U.S. \$200.00 sent to Union Bank, Main Branch, Jerusalem, Israel, account No. 13-051-886800-68. Both may be sent to the following fax no. +972-2-241001-

- 4. The quotations should be deposited in the "tenders" box at the above address by no later than noon on the 29th of September, 1993.
 - The bids should be submitted in an envelope marked: Tender: 16/93/100.
- Bezeq is not obligated to accept the cheapest or any bid or to order the whole quantity from one

Bids by fax or telex will not be accepted.

By contrast, Cleese thinks the tricks of management are pretty obvious. He spends no time talking to businessmen, claiming he does not know any. He is as much the ordinary bloke as his towering fame will allow. He sits in his seriously rich Notting Hill house looking casual in a grey track suit, and is so adamant he knows nothing that his minder has to intervene.

"No. John," she says, "you are so perceptive. You look at a series of problems that are presented by a company, and your strength is saying I don't believe that is their problem, it is something deeper." Her name is Tina Tietjen. Since

she and a partner paid £50m in a management buy-out for his video training company, Video Arts, she has had a particular interest in selling Cleese's management skills.

In this she has been supremely successful: Cleese, the British com-edy actor who shot to fame with the Monty Python television series, has become the world's most popular management trainer. Millions of managers have watched him play the part of buffoon manager in training videos. In the US, thousands have flocked to hear him lecture on management, and many more thousands have paid £250 for a 30-minute video of the occasion. Even veteran guru Peter Drucker is

Managers who have bought the videos are now buying the book. Co-written with his analyst Robyn Skynner, Life and How to Survive It coins the phrase "healthy company", and argues that healthy companies resemble healthy families, only bigger.

Management is an odd interest for a comic. How did it all begin? Cleese, as is now his way, immediately reaches for the psycho-analytical rather than the hysterical answer. It was because he was the only child of elderly parents and, therefore, was drawn towards teams, he begins.

But surely it is a long way from being a lonely child to making training videos about how to make meetings more productive?

"Meetings with the Python team were a low-grade nightmare." he says. "So when someone asked me in 1976 to write a film about how to run an efficient meeting, I found it fascinating. And then once you've done one area you get interested in

Cleese lives by two of his central: tenets: never to pretend he knows something when he does not, and to

John Cleese talks to Lucy Kellaway about his unlikely role of

management trainer

Acting the guru



what's going on in British industry and I say I don't know. There's no point pretending I do."
Tietjen starts to look anxious

again and possess out that John is a natural feather.

Cleane reluctantly admits that

admit to making mistakes. This after giving his speech about the makes him frustratingly hard to pin value of making mistakes he gets

mobbed by managers saying: "I wish you could tell my boss that." The speech makes a distinction between "the copper-bottomed mistakes like wearing a black bra under a white blouse" and those which are a fair try but just happen

Does he think that people who

note? "People who are quite reasonably healthy will learn things and will change," he says, and as if to prove the point he cites a personal example. "When I was first in show-biz I was frequently 10 minutes late for things. I realised that I was not leaving enough time to get there."

So he changed; simple as that.

When Cleese admits to knowing anything, he puts it down to intuition. It is this that allows him to sort out a good team from a had one. The first thing you notice is that you feel something isn't quite right. Then you do a bit of digging around to try to figure it out. If you use your intuition – which men in our society don't really use or trust very much - you can fairly easily see if people are communicating with each other in an open way, or if they both have hidden agendas."

He cites two recent films he has been involved in. One has been easy because everyone knew who was meant to be doing what. The other has been a dog's breakfast. "You realise the thing is out of control, and everyone is making it up as they go along. I believe that if you can get egos out of the way, be straight with people, listen to what they say, it is amazing what can be

However this smooth-running, plain-dealing is not the norm. Most people try to create mythologies about themselves. They pretend they know when they don't know, get stuck in all these little acts." Worst, he says, was Robert Maxwell, "the most complete clown in Britain". Cleese takes a dim view of most big businessmen: "The sad thing about our culture is that it people at the top of companies. Their behaviour is very like five-year-olds. It is only the powerful people who can get away with it, and because they are so visible,

It is not just the big bosses who are inadequate. Many people are not in good enough psychological nick to be ready for the healthy company he and Skynner describe. "A lot of people are not going to like it," he says. "If you want to go into a healthy company you better be fairly healthy yourself. If you come from a very distrustful, manipulating family and go into an organisation where people are open with each other it would drive you

The difference between a healthy and unhealthy company, he and his shrink have figured out, is confidence. "Not the bloated, sticking chest out strutting around confidence," he says, his words creating a rare glimpse of the old manic Cleese. The confidence is the quiet confidence of a batsman. And how hould companies acquire it? Not for the first time, he says: "I

A cross-cultural minefield

Gillian Tett on the surprises that ensued when British managers set out to teach the Russians western skills

t 9am nearly half the training course had retired with a hangover. Two more had vanished, apparently conducting a romance. And though the rest seemed eager to learn about management skills. several more were stuck in Moscow, awaiting their correct

By the traditions of Russian industry, this may have been nothing new. But for the British organisers of the seminar it was a vivid reminder that teaching western management skills to a Russian audience is, at best, an unpredictable task.

Few doubt that the Russians will need a heavy investment in training to help their economy undergo transformation. But the type of business training that is appropriate - and how it can be imparted in an effective manner - is an issue that remains a potential cross-cultural minefield

This particular exchange. arranged between Moscow **Business School and Henley** Management College, and sponsored by Digital, set out to address a key question: in a culture which has had no experience of western-style management or personnel skills, how do you create responsible and decisive managers?

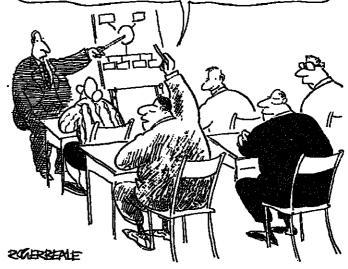
Or, to use the management training terms, how do you set about "empowering"

To tackle the theme, the 10 Russians, some from business. others from the Moscow Business School, were allowed to window-shop on a range of

western management theories British Petroleum told them about personnel strategy, Dun and Bradstreet spoke about human resource management, while Digital representatives lectured on issues ranging from the EC to employee empowerment.

In an atmosphere of polite bemusement, the Russians were handed a series of "machine sense tools" - not unlike multi-coloured designer toys - and told to analyse them in a session on confidence building and decision

CAN WE SKIP THE MANAGEMENT THEORY AND HUMAN RESOURCE STRATEGY AND . GO STRAIGHT ON TO GOLDEN HANDSHAKES?



"It has long been argued that if you give people the freedom and tell them they have it, they will be empowered," said Helen Kelly, an American psychologist, who devised the exercise as a means of teaching employees and troubled teenagers self confidence and innovation.

"It's very exciting to see what can happen with this," echoed Derek Thomson, a management consultant with Kodak, who explained that his company had dready used the exercise on the factory floor in the US, with some "very encouraging" results. "The best thing is that it can be used in any language."

he Russians, who seemed as intrigued by the glue sticks and complimentary Kodak cameras as the toys themselves, obediently set to

By the end of the morning, they had produced a range of paper machines, on which some chose to express their creativity by doodling designs.

"The thing about this is that

you can learn to do things you thought you couldn't," explained Kelly, through an interpreter, who had gainfully succeeded in translating "empowerment" but had rather more problems translating the word "fun". And what did the Russians

think they had learnt? "It's all been very unusual, but I am not sure that I can use it in my work with customs regulations," admited Natalia Koulikova, who worked in international trade at the Mo **Business School.** Marina Mdivani, a professor

in human resource management. was rather more hopeful. Russian managers desperately need, she said, to learn the principles of conflict, control and personnel management. And. indeed, she found the

fascinating and apt. "But the problem is that we don't have very much money for all these exercises now," she said. Most managers are more concerned with profits than playing with paper games."

"empowerment" messa

Wouldn't you like to talk to the people who make the world go round?



The IMF/World Bank meetings in Washington this September hold a special interest for top decision

Today they have to think beyond national borders and take account of global issues. And they will look to the Financial Times for the most authoritative reporting of events as they unfold in Washington. The Financial Times iMF/World Economy and Finance Survey will be published on Friday,

September 24 to coincide with the Washington meetings. It will deliver a unique opportunity for advertisers to speak directly to a very select group of people. To ensure your message is not lost please telephone Hannah Pursail in London +44 (0) 71 873 4167 or your usual Financial Times representative.

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FINANCIAL TIMES

NEWSLETTERS



HALL & TAWSE QUALITY CONSTRUCTION

Burke wins £14m BT order

MP BURKE, part of the Southern Electric group, has clinched a £14m contract with

The Barnsley-based company is responsible for the construction and upkeep of BT's underground duct network in parts of north-east England.

The contract area includes major towns and cities such as Newcastle, Sunderland, Hartlepool, Shettield, Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham.

Southern Electric, the regional electricity company which serves central southern England, acquired a 70 per cent stake in MP Burke's parent company, Rightmain, in May

Defence work

LAING CIVIL ENGINEERING has been awarded a contract (worth about £7.5m) for the new Ministry of Defence devel opment at Stoke Gifford near

The contract, awarded by the MoD, involves infrastructure works including site clearance, roads and car parks plus the capping of an existing mine shaft. The contract is scheduled for completion in July

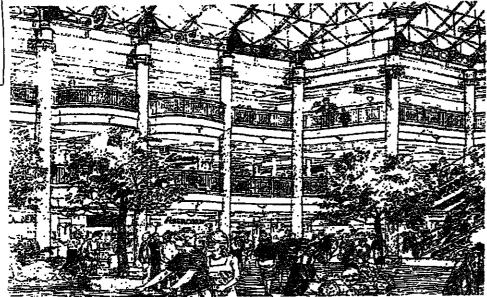
Medical facility

EC HARRIS, in association with Dublin-based JJ BALL-ANCE & CO, has been appointed project manager for the £110m development of a teaching hospital at Tallaght, Co Dublin, Eire. The 500-bed general teaching hospital will replace three health facilities

in the area.

Tallaght is a community which is being developed to the south west of Dublin. EC Harris also worked on the new Tallaght shopping centre, which has been funded by Guardian Royal Exchange.

Upgrading shopping centre



HIGGS & HILL SOUTHERN is to undertake the refurbishment of the Whitgift Shopping Centre (pictured above) in Croydon, Surrey, under a £17.5m design and build contract. The Whitgift Centre is believed to be the largest town centre retail complex in the

south east, with 140 retailers. In addition to general refurbishment, the project will involve the construction of 24 new retail units, a restaurant. extension of the basement. roofing over the pedestrian malls and complete upgrading of the mall finishes. All the malls will have new low maintenance granite flooring.
A completely new lighting

system has been designed to enhance the ambience of the malls which will be surmounted by fully glazed roofs. 65ft above ground level, and specially designed to incorporate smoke extractor fans and other safety features. Entry points to the centre

will be upgraded and improved. The Allders Department Store will have a remodelled frontage, and an adjacent 20,000 sq ft WH Smith store is proposed.

The upgrading programme will transform the 1960s open air shopping areas into a fully up-to-date enclosed retail facility and create an enhanced environment both for retailers and shoppers. Work has started on site and completion

West End office block development

KYLE STEWART has won new work from The Crown Estates, North East Thames Regional Health Authority, Marks & Spencer, National Breakdown and Tesco, worth in excess of

in London's Regent Street. the £20m redevelopment of a 14,800 sq metre office block next to Hamleys toy store behind a listed facade will

retail units with the remaining space used as offices. The design and construct contract for The Crown Estates is programmed to last 21

ground and lower ground floor

The North East Thames Regional Health Authority has awarded the Kyle Stewart Group the design and construct for psychiatric and geriaccommodate first floor, atric units at the Homerton hospital.

comprises two buildings - a single three-storey 30-person unit for the elderly mentally ill and an oncology laboratory with ancillary accommodation at second and third floor level. The second building will contain a 20-person rehabilitation unit for long-stay patients and a 60-person psychiatric day

Hospital in Hackney, London.

The 16-month £8m project

Testing new material for road building

JOHN MOWLEM CONSTRUC-TION for repairs to the M18 in South Yorkshire, is to feature Britain's first trials of a new type of reinforced concrete carriageway · "whisper concrete".

The project involves the reconstruction of two miles of both carriageways near

Thorne, from Junction 5, the M180 interchange to Junction 6 the A614 interchange. The scheme is to include the

surface treatments. One of these - exposed aggregate finish, sometimes knows as "whisper concrete" · origi-

tested in Britain for the first time. This finish is intended to give a quieter journey for motorists.

construction of new concrete The performance of the road carriageways with differing will be regularly tested by the Department of Transport and the Transport Research labora-

Barclays refocuses on Far East

Despite the recent losses suffered by investment banks trading in Japanese equities, Barclays has reinforced its commitment to the Far East and the links between operations of its BZW investment banking arm in London and Tokyo - with a series of appointments in Britain and

The most senior move is the appointment of Ben Grigsby. the group's country manager for Japan, to the new post of deputy chief executive for the RZW markets division responsible for sales and distribution of BZW services. He is being rewarded for managing Japan through a difficult trading cli-

Non-executive

■ Kit Farrow, director general

■ Henry Lewis, a former joint

directors

at CUPID.

of the British Merchant

Banking and Securities

Association, at GLYNWED.

md of Marks & Spencer, a

non-exec at Dixons and a

■ David Bucks, a former

deputy chairman of Hill

■ Lawrence Urguhart.

as deputy chairman of

remains on the board.

has made a loan to the

resigned.

SCOTTISH WIDOWS: he

succeeds James Boyd who

■ Peter Dawson, former md

company, at TOMORROW'S

LEISURE: Barry Anysz has

■ Michael Tuttle, formerly

■ David Marlow, a former

European regional president of Mars, at THORNTONS.

of Grove Europe, whose family

former non-exec at Gabicci,

Samuel Bank and already on

hoard as deputy chairman.

chairman of Burmah Castrol.

DOBSON PARK INDUSTRIES

president of Barclays Trust and Banking in Japan, who will become a director of BZW and lead a team trying to improve BZW's services to Japanese corporate and institutional customers. The moves will take place from September

In Japan, Callum McCarthy will become group country manager in addition to his role as chief executive of Japan Barclays Bank. Peter Fenichel. managing director in BZW's debt capital markets unit in London, will move to Japan as president of BZW Securities there, and still run global private placements.

chief executive of 3i, and John

Ballard, the outgoing director

of the Maxwell pensions unit,

have been appointed trustees of the MAXWELL

Robert Hodges, md of Lyons

HOLDINGS: John Garner has

Martin Lampard have retired

■ Charles Fisher, chairman of Sharpe & Fisher, at JOHN MOWLEM & Co.

■ Ray Cullimore is retiring

WATERWORKS in November.

■ Menzies Campbell, Liberal

defence and sport, Baroness

Hooper, now in the Lords and

secretary, at WESTMINSTER

COMMUNICATIONS GROUP.

of Sterling Trust and Swaine

Adeney Brigg, and former chairman of the British

Rohan Courtney, chairman

Democrat spokesman on

until last year, and Ann Taylor, shadow education

PENSIONERS TRUST.

Ewan Broadbent.

retired.

following the death of Sir

Tetley, at LYONS IRISH

■ Sir John Grenside and

from ALLIED-LYONS.

from CHESTER

operations between London and Tokyo might surprise competitors such as National West-minster, which has withdrawn from Japanese equities after suffering losses. But McCarthy says BZW has a big enough spread of securities businesses to balance equities losses last

McCarthy says BZW - which has overall responsibility for savings ratio will provide plenty of business opportuni-

looked carefully" at its

Barclays operations in Japan operations there before reinforcing the links, it thinks the combination of strong trade flows and a high personal

Overseas Commonwealth Banks Association, at TULLOW OIL. Rollin Mettler has retired from PRESTWICK HOLDINGS. ■ Jerome Tolot, general manager at Dumez, at ALFRED McALPINE; he replaces Christine Morin-Postel. ■ Sir Ewen Fergusson previously British ambassador to France, at The SAVOY

HOTEL. Ken Manley, chairman of Country Choice, at BRAKE BROS, on its acquisition of Country Choice. Donald Raley, former deputy chairman of New Scotland Insurance Group, and chairman of its subsidiary The Independent Insurance Co, and Brian Denney, a director of Denney O'Hara and chairman of BIIBA, at MEDICAL

a junior minister for five years INSURANCE AGENCY. Anthony Loehnis, former vice-chairman of S.G. Warburg, at ST JAMES'S PLACE CAPITAL.

■ Gordon Campbell Douglas at EUROPA MINERALS

Erith turns non-executive

Bob Erith, who in his heyday was the star stockmarket analyst of the building industry has decided to bow out of broking and take on the nonexecutive chairmanship of Capel-Cure Myers Capital Management, a £4bn private client

Erith, who turns 55 this year, has worked for the same firm. albeit under different owners, for 27 years and feels that the time is right to make the transformation from being a busy executive to a professional

Most of his City career has been spent at Savory Milln which was absorbed by Swiss Bank Corporation in 1990. In order to take up his new job he will retire as chairman of the equities group of Swiss Bank Corporation but will remain a onsultant.

His move to Capel-Cure Myers, which has been without a chairman for some time. appears to have resulted from a chance encounter between a Swiss Bank Corp executive and a member of Canadian Insurance Group, CCM's majority shareholder, at a dinner in Toronto. The Canadians were looking for a chairman and Erith's name was mentioned John Henderson, CCM's chief executive, said that he had not known Erith before the appointment was made.

With 22 offices and 460 staff, CCM has remained profitable under various owners and has built a reputation specialising m private clients, unit trusts pensions and insurance funds. A few years ago when a former Canadian parent ran into probiems there was speculation that CCM might be sold. Canadian Insurance Group, which is now the majority shareholder, has indicated to CCM chief executive John Henderson that it is not seeking a buyer.



Christopher Jonas, who stepped down as president of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors last month, is to lend his property expertise to Railtrack, the new organisation which will soon be responsible for Britain's 10.000-mile railway network.

Jonas, 51-year-old senior partner of Drivers Jonas, chartered surveyors, is one of the first outsiders to be appointed to the board of Railtrack which is being set up under the chairmanship

of ex-BP boss Bob Horton. The new organisation, which will take control of British Rail's track and signalling network, does not come into being until the rail privatisation bill gets royal assent next April Jonas has therefore been appointed a part-time non-executive member of the British Rail board and the intention is that he will transfer to the

Railtrack board on April 1. Jonas began his career with Jones Lang Wootton and became a partner of Drivers

Jonas in 1967. Twenty years later he took over as senior pariner. A member of the Port of London Anthority and the British Rail Property Board, Jonas has been a property adviser to organisation ranging from the British Airports Authority to the Royal Bank of Scotland and the Ducky of Cornwall.

外的线

Meanwhile, former Rowntree chairman Kenneth Dixon, 63, has been reappointed as a part-time BR board member for two years.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

ONE BOEING 747-243B AIRCRAFT

Hull 753 Corporation, as Secured Party under a Mortgage and Security Agreement dated as of March 1, 1986 from Meridian Trust Company, as Owner Trustee as successor in interest to Integrated Aircraft Corp., to Secured Party ("Mortgage") intends to self at public auction the items described below:

Description of Collateral

1. One Boeing Model 747-243B aircraft bearing FAA Registration No.N78020 (formerly N604PE) and manufacturer's serial no. 19731 and four (4) Pratt & Whitney Model JT8D-7A turbojet engines bearing, respectively manufacturer's serial nos. P662213CN, P602663CN, P695721 and

2. all manuals, logs and inspection, modification, overhaul and main records kept with respect to the foregoing, and

certain other property and rights pledged to the Secured Party under the Mortgage (collectively referred to as the "Collateral").

Terms and Conditions of Public Anction

The sale of the Collateral will take place on September 20, 1993, at 10.00 a.m. (the "Date of Sale") at the offices of Vedder, Price, Kaufman & Kammholz at 222 North LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 6/601. The aircraft and the other Collateral will be sold as a unit, "AS IS - WHERE IS" WITHOUT ANY REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES, to the highest bidder, for cash. The Secured Party reserves the right, on or prior to the Date of Sale, to impose any other conditions upon the sale of the Collateral and to continue the sale. The aircraft is offered in passenger configuration.

Bids may be submitted, in writing at any time prior to the Date of Sale, to Hull 753 Corporation at 2700 Sanders Road, Prospect Heights, Illinois 60070. telecopy (708) 305-7411, Attention: Dennis White and will be considered along with any other bids received on the Date of Sale. The Secured Party ves the right to bid at the sale and, notwithstanding the requirement that such sale be for eash, to apply all or any part of the total amount of the indebtedness owed to the Secured Party in satisfaction of the purchase price. The winning bidder will be required to deposit ten percent (10%) of its bid with the Secured Party on the Date of Sale and to transmit the remainder of its bid to the Secured Party within five (5) business days of the Date of Sale. The Collateral is located at Lockheed Commercial Aircraft Center, Inc. in San Bernardino, California, Inspection of the Collateral may be arranged by appointment. All inquiries and requests for inspections or additional information should be directed to Dennis White at Household Commercial Financial Services, Inc., 2700 Sanders Road, Prospect Heights, Illinois 60070, relephone (708) 564-6042, telecopy (708) 205-7411.

Notice of Approximent of Liquidator Company Number 2016/707 GERALDO LIMITEO

Previous name: Fibbol Limited Name of voluntary winding up. Address of registered office Cork Gully, Oriel House, 55 Sheep rthampton VN1 2NF, Lequidators ame and address. Robin Michael Addy (Office holder number 1831s, Amanda Sheria Mare Robertson (Ollice holder number 7853) of Cork Gully, Orial House, 55 Sheep Street. Northampton, NN1 2NF, Date of acore to July, 1943. Appointed by th

igned: R Addy and A Robertson Allested, John N Whitfield ACA.

Company No 944421
T BODILY & SONS LIMITED aed 16 July 1993 Type of liquidation - Credit red office: Glenzand House, 45-48 St. lames. Road. Northampton. NNS SLG. ors names and addresses. In Quinne Taylor of Smith Dove, teleprosed Heat Robin Addy of Cork Gully, Oriel House, 55 umber 5243. Date of appointment 9 July. By

Signature R M Addy Date 9 July 1993

Address of registered office: 131, May Lane, Farniture Removers Court Burmingham Laquedator's Name: Nigel John Halls, Address. Lannos House, Spa Boad, Gloucester, GL1 IDX Date and time of Final Meeting of Creditors: 17th August, 1993 at 1009 hours. Place of Meering Cork Gally, Lennor House. Spa Road, Glocowier, GL1 1XD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, persuant to section 93 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above-Barmingham, B.2.5ff on (1 August 1993) at 2.50 pm for the purposes mentioned in accious 50 to 101 of the stat Act.

A first of the names and addresses of the company's reduces may be inspected free of charge 31. Cerk Gully, 43. Temple Row, Berningham, B.2.5ff on Monday 9 August and Justicky 10 August 1993.

By order of the Board.

Lettland.

Moorgate Typesetting Co. Ltd.
Rugstered Diffac St Andrew's House
20 St Andrew Street, London EC 4A 3AY
Nature of Business Typesettiers, Company
Number 310513 Legariator's Name: John
Fredreak Posell Addies, St Andrew House,
21 St Andrew Street, London EC 4A 3AY, Office

The State Property Agency and PHARE jointly

are invited to submit their bids for pre-qualification. Additional information is available at the Information

Fax Number: (36-1) 269-8991

STATE PROPERTY AGENCY 1133 BUDAPEST, Pozsonyi út 56.

CONTRACTS & TENDERS

announce a two-round public tender for implementation of bankruptcy and crisis management training project in the Autumn of 1993. Natural and legal entities of the European Community Member States and of PHARE recipient countries involved in organisation of training projects

/1133 Budapest, Pozsonyi út 56, in the lobby/ Phone Number: (36-1) 269-8990

Proposals should be submitted to the SPA within 4 weeks after the announcement in 3 English and 3 Hungarian language copies, placed in a sealed envelope bearing the following title:

TRAINING PROJECT"

External Human Policy Directorate

The State Property Agency will notify the bidders about the result of this pre-qualification tender within 3 months of submission deadline.

The State Property Agency presents a public tender invitation for the sale of the state owned shares of

GANZ Müszer Rt.

and a simultaneous increase of equity capital of HUF 80,000,000.

This is to inform interested parties that the registered capital of Ganz Müszer is HUF 790,000,000 of which the 50.1% state participation in the nominal value of HUF 395,790,000 is now being offered for sale.

All types of favourable payment terms will be accepted when the bids are evaluated (MRP (Employers' Share Ownership Program), Compensation tickets, "E" credit, etc.)

Conditions for participation in the tender:

- ☐ The purchase of 50.1% of the total share package representing a nominal value of HUF 790,000,000, that the share package of HUF 395,790,000 with the simultaneous increase of the registered capital by minimum HUF 80,000.000 (10% of the purchase price should be paid in compensation tickets, but the part over the deposited sum can also be paid for in compensation tickets)
- ☐ deposit of HUF 8,000,000
- ☐ issuance of secrecy statement on the information obtained.

Deadline for presenting the bids: September 17, 16:00 o'clock

Address for presenting the bids:

Allami Vagyonügynökség (State Property Agency) Budapest, 1133 Pozsonyi út 56. Iktató

The applications should unambiguously state that they remain valid for 120 calendar days starting on the day of the deadline for presentation. Following tender opening, SPA shall have the right to ask for verbal or written

SPA shall retain the right to declare the tender as invalid.

A precondition for the presentation of the bid is the purchase from SPA, Budapest, 1133 Pozsonyi üt 56. the detailed tender documentation for the price of HUF 8,000. The documentation also specifies the system of procedure. For information, turn to:

> Elma Mátyus Phone: (36-1) 269-8600/16-70

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والمالية

m worried about Sir Peter Holmes. He was until recently the chairman of Shell Transport and Trading plc. and every working morning he climbed 52 flights of stars to reach his office on the 26th floor of the Shell Tower on London's South Bank: He says in one of the programmes in the BBC 2 series Architecture of the Imagination (9.30pm every Friday for five weeks) that "it is a form of pain, but I do it to keep fit."

I can hardly bear to think of the limbo Sir Peter must be in now he has retired; how does he try out his muscles every morning without the challenge of those Shell stairs? How he must miss that private satisfaction of greeting his visitors at the lift door knowing that be has himself scaled the flights on foot. I suppose we had all thought of the skyscrapers of New York as giant "ego statements" but not many company chairman take the climb to the top quite so literally.

The interesting thing about this new architectural series for BBC 2 by the independent producers Third Eye Productions, is that it deals with architecture without dwelling on buildings. Architecture of the imagination explores built elements of our surroundings from the psychological, mythological and poetic points of view. There are five programmes, each one focused upon one element - the door, the stairway, the window, the bridge and the tower.

To extend the ideas exammed in the programmes each shown that features one of the five themes. These films will

The Salzburg Festival

started out, in the

early decades of the

century, as a place of

theatrical experiment. In the

postwar era of Herbert von

Karajan it developed into the epitome of the Lacrus-Festival.

Here the top names of the oper-

atic and concert-giving world

assembled for top fees in mon-

ey-no-object performances et

top ticket prices, increasingly

the "straight" theatre found

itself consigned to the margins; by the time of Karajan's death.

Now Salzburg is back on the

road of experiment. This is the

third year of Gerard Mortier's

artistic directorship, and every-

where his horizon-widening

approach is apparent. Trends

and themes deemed unworthy

of notice not long ago are ener-

getically examined; significant

composers and performers

accorded non-person status by

the previous administration

This year's modern-music

compilations (None, Ligeti,

Kurtag) offer a prime example.

Nikolaus Harnoncourt, the pio-

neering Austrian period-prac-

tice conductor, offers enother -

uninvited in Karajan's day,

since 1991 a mainstay of pro-

gramming. Monteverdi offers

yet another - Orfeo and L'inco-

ronazione di Poppea staged

with period-instrument accom-

are warmly embraced.

become horribly decadent,

to the series as they have clearly been so carefully selected Last Friday, for exampie, the first programme, "The Door" was well supported by Fritz Lang's Secret Beyond the Door". The whole series is anchored by the presence in each programme of the American writer, cultural historian and psychologist James Hillman, who provides a con-stantly illuminating commen-

There is a risk in this sort of programme that the psychological approach to the everyday can look both obvious and contrived. James Hillman's approach is questioning rather than dogmatic and his manner is agreeably gentle. The viewer is allowed to let his own imagination roam - and this is unusual in television. Mark Kidel is clearly a very sensitive and visually literate producer and director. He seemed to me to have an excellent rapport with artists - and I have to say I found the artists' responses by far the most rewarding aspect of the programmes. It was noteworthy too how few architects there are in the programmes: can this be some comment upon the quality of their imagination?

Critics have the privilege of eing all five programmes on video in advance and I can confidentity say that, although the first programme last Friday on "The Door" was good, the series gets better and better as it goes on. The pairing of feature films and programmes that is particularly effective is that of "The Tower" and King Vidor's remarkable film based on Ayn Rand's book The Foun-

peniment. Under Peter Stein, Salzberg theatrical tradition is

excitingly refreshed; Corio-

iasus under Deborah Warner

(European debut) is already a big talking point. (I shall

return to the new Coriolanus

in a subsequent report.)
Not everyone is happy. The

old guard continues to rumble

against Mortier's combative

management style. The record

companies, for whom Salzburg

was once a licensed showcase.

are unhappy. At a first-week

press conference the Vienna

whether it was still loved and

wanted here - Mortier's

announcement that next year's

Beethoven symphony cycle

would go to Harnoncourt and

the Chamber Orchestra of

Europe can hardly have been

irrelevant to such musings.

New patterns of audience

attraction are incompletely

formed; in these recessionary

And artistically not every-

thing this year has come quite

right - even someone wholly

in sympathy with Mortier's

vision has to admit as much.

The two Monteverdi produc-tions make the point: Orfeo in

the courtyard of the Residenz.

Popped in the vast spaces of

the Grosses Festspielhaus.

Both succeed as splashy, atten-

tion-grabbing events; both find

different ways of (to my mind)

cruelly diluting the profound

Belgian pianist André de Groote

times, ticket sales are down.

Opera/Max Loppert

Monteverdi at Salzburg

inspires men to become architects; it stars Gary Cooper as the architect/hero and I am sure much architectural arrogance can be blamed on the powerful imagery of this film. All architects will be glued to BBC 2 that night.

Last Friday's programme on the door introduced us to our guide, Mr Hillman, and with him an artist, a freemason and a Russian Orthodox priest. The ideas we have of emotional security and practical safety were considered as well as the role the door plays as a wel-coming and an excluding agent. The film clips showed many a panting heroine slamming her door against the rav-ages of the world. The artist Ben Johnson has a calmer approach although he is obsessive about doors and indeed asks visitors to his studio to remove their shoes before they cross the threshold into his own world. He paints doorways and vistas endlessly and is as concerned with their physical reality as with their symbol-

almost took us into the inner sanctum of the Russian Orthodox Church behind the iconostasis which is the screen that separates the congregation and the area reserved for the priests. This was one of the most beautiful parts of the programme where the camera and the architecture were creatively used to inspire us with a sense of mystery. The discussion that James Hillman has with us and with himself in this first part of the series does raise important questions about private and public space. His conclusions about the open

nity of the works in question.

in Capital Letters by producer-

designer Herbert Wernicke (a

figure of note in continental

opera houses so far unknown

in Britain). In a daring visual

conceit, a gigantic mock-up of

the Residenz courtyard facade

itself serves as set, slashed and

kinked by a great scarlet gash.

nae are - here we go again! -

in modern-day evening dress,

evidently engaged upon a wed-ding party for Orpheus and

Eurydice at which things get

out of hand. Events, some of

them dispersed to vertigo-indu-

cing heights, are re-thought in

what one can only assume is

Wernicke's dialectical confron-

The trouble is that his "new"

tation of the original libretto.

Orfeo plot proves obscure (at

one point Eurydice dies then

recovers, at another Orpheus

stabs himself), lacking in its

own strict logic, drenched in modern cliché; since moments

of illumination were scarce,

one ended up feeling that the

cord of artistic tension con-

necting Monteverdi's time and

our own had here been frayed

beyond repair. René Jacobs's

slack, slow-tempo conducting

of the Concerto Vocale was no

help. Nor was the mediocre

singing, though Laurence Dale

(a baritonally rich, sensitive

tenor Orpheus), Susan Graham

The opera's dramatic perso-

Orfeo is a Re-interpretation

Father Benedict Ramsden



Deanna Petherbridge's paintings - of a "fantasy architecture" as she calls it - often include mysterious and somewhat disturbing staircases, many of which lead nowhere

flicts with our need for personal territory is significant. Perhaps architects do need the services of psycholanalysts to help them avoid the errors they have certainly made in defining space as an abstract thing, not a worldly and everyday reality.

Try not to miss the pro-

(La Musica), the veteran Jules

Bastin (Charon) and Monica

Bacelli (an Italian Messenger

mirabile dictu, with blessedly

idiomatic enunciation) pro-

vided exceptions to the latter

Poppea - surtitled in English

and German (a Salzburg first),

with Harnoncourt using a huge

Concentus Musicus for his

fancy Monteverdi edition -

was a bloated burlesque. In

Jürgen Flimm's production

much jokey time-travelling

(e.g. guards with portable TVs)

thought-lines of this terrify-

ingly austere, intimate music-

drama. No doubt, given the

absurd choice of venue, some

such enlargement was inevita-

ble. This one was unforgivably

coarse in spirit and even coar-

ser in general singing style.

with verismo phrasing that

only underlined the preponder-

Harnoncourt's reputation as a

Monteverdi guru must surely

have taken a knock. On the

other hand, the reputations of

the few really accomplished

singers on hand - Sylvia

McNair a deliciously cool, sub-

tle Poppea, Philip Langridge an

authoritative tenor Nero, Kurt

Moll amazingly refined and

stylish as Seneca, Andrea Rost

will only be enhanced, and

a youthfully pure Drusilla -

Recitar cantando, indeed!

ance of poor Italian diction.

gramme on "The Staircase" this Friday for the marvellous insights it gives into the work of the artist Deanna Petherbridge - a glimpse of her dream world is highly illuminating. It is the mixture of art, psychology and architecture that makes this a rewarding series. It should be compulsory

viewing for architects but more particularly for anyone engaged in architectural education. For anyone engaged with students of architecture every Friday in August must be spent in front of the TV: at last a holistic approach to a subject that has been isolated by architects for far too long.

Wembley Stadium

Prince

h dear: Prince has shrunk - in imagination, in impact, in showmanship. The attraction of the world's greatest one-man disco was that, although knee high to Wayne Sleep, he thought big. At a Prince show you could relax in the presence of gilt beds that hovered above the audience, space pods to ferry in the star, cartwheeling dancers and plenty of them, mighty voiced backing singers, giant screens, and lashings of innuendo. It was the night club

On this tour Prince is thinking small, a terrible mistake at Wembley Stadium which is only kind to megalomaniacs. Even his opening number is a joke against the audience. Some fireworks explode fitfully, and a harness descends to the stage bearing a figure shielded in a gold mask singing "My name is Prince". On reaching landfall there is a quick strip and instead of the man himself there is a convulsive girl dancer. Prince actu-

ally walks on to the stage. It doesn't take long to realise that Prince had to keep moving because his songs are very sedentary. Even the hits from the past - and the act contained most things from "Purple rain" to "Sign 'o' the times" - would scarcely make "Your Hundred Best Tunes", and the recent stuff is doubtful re-treads. So its all down to the sizzle. The lone dancer does her best, ululating through a dozen costume changes, but the band seemed in bolshie mood, often trying to drown out the boss rather than to back up his piercing voice. It was almost inevitable that the stage was so arranged that sitting in one of the more privileged seats I never actually saw the musicians live, only conveyed

Of course there were moments to draw in the breath - a thousand streamers raining on the crowds; a light show to dazzle the most jaded eves. turning the stage to oven red or incandescent white; plenty of Roman candles - but this seemed a melancholic Prince.

through the side screens.

You actually felt he could have meant it at the finale when, as part of an interminably boring "joke" about what he calls himself these days (he prefers to be known as a symbol) he cries out "What's my name: take my name, I don't want it." Were we witnessing one of the most public breakdowns in entertainment history? Its a pity this moment of self doubt should be mixed up in a tedious routine in which the audience has to shout out the word, and the word is "come". It was time to go.

Antony Thorncroft took the copyright on more

Sponsorship

BT connects with the grass roots

BT increased its profits in the than thirty art works which first quarter of the year which is excellent news for the be reproduced as gifts to key arts. Like many responsible companies BT allocates a percentage of its profits, half a per cent in practice, to good causes, which include the

Last year BT profits were down so the goodies-bag shrunk from £15m to £14m, although Rodger Broad, who looks after the arts at BT, was able to negotiate an increase in his budget from £1.6m to £1.8m. This is by far the largest sum devoted by a UK company to arts sponsorship, and the probability of higher BT profits means it should grow again in

Broad must have the heaviest arts post bag in the land -more than 700 letters a day. most of which would like a cheque by return. The in-tray has grown by 40 per cent in the last eighteen months, reflecting the financial crisis hitting arts organisa-

Unfortunately most of BT's budget is tied up in long-term contracts, such as the National Touring Art Exhibition, organised by the South Bank to bring art to the regions, which mons up Elm over three years: Northern Ballet Theatre, and the biennial drama festival which finds fifty leading ama-teur theatrical companies simultaneously presenting a BT commissioned play, which this October is Peter Whelan's up-date of A Midsummer

But nothing lasts for ever and BT's five-year sponsorship of the New Contemporaries Tour, at £65,000 a year, is up for re-appraisal.

This results in big media coverage (most of it unfavourable about the art on display) but small audiences, in contrast to the National Touring Exhibitions which are attracting steadily larger audiences but less publicity.

There are exceptions: last month's display of Picasso prints at Leyhili Open Prison proved such a happy example of a sponsored media happening that it is to be repeated in another prison.

BT avoids big splashy events in favour of grass roots arts involvement although it cares greatly about media coverage and value for money.

into amateur music under the umbrella of the National Federation of Music Societies, and its latest project is Voices for Hospices.

On one evening in October 1994 thousands of singers throughout the country, in hundreds of separate locations, will sing Messiah, and hospices could benefit by up to £1m from box office revenues. BT is putting up £80,000 towards administration and publicity.

Computers and art are enjoying a creative love affair and IBM is doing its bit to bless the union. It asked print students at the Royal College of Art to come up with their impressions of the IBM AS/400 com-

puter. For its £15,000 in prizes IBM will decorate IBM offices and customers as well as ideas that can be used to pep up advertis ing copy.

It also allowed one computer to get a full artist's paint job, and is considering dressing up computers, not the most decorative of machines, with colour and design.

Being sponsored by a terminal is rather like being discovered in a handbag but Contact Theatre in Manchester and Tara Arts are happy to receive a £35,000 package from Manchester Airport T2, the T2 standing for Terminal Two. The airport is proving a loyal supporter of local arts and is not afraid to back the experi-

Most of the money goes towards a production of Troilus and Cressida which will open in September and then tour the world. Contact's audience is young people and Tara is the UK's leading Asian theatre company, attacking its first Shakespeare.

Whitbread's love affair with the Edinburgh Fringe intensifies. It is putting in more than £100,000 this year, with most going behind the Stella Artois brand, which keeps things humming in the Assembly

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In addition, Stella is sponsor ing a Comedy Festival which embraces the three main Fringe venues, the Assembly Rooms, the Pleasance, and the Gilded Balloon.

Whitbread's Boddington brand will again be backing the Dream Tent in the Meadows, and the Supper Room is given over to Mur-

One unusual feature of the deal is that if the artists booked to star at the three venues, and Whitbreads, fail to get the television coverage anticipated some of the sponsorship money will be withheld.

Meanwhile the Edinburgh Festival proper has again achieved its sponsorship target and - again - it is a record sum, £805,000, and an important contribution to this year's budget of £4.3m.

Scottish Power has shot ahead as the leading supporter with £68,000. The search is on for a broader base of backers rather than a reliance on Scottish financial institutions and other locals.

Jaguar made its first big contribution by hosting a party at which potential 1994 sponsors were met for the first time and entertained.

Barclays Bank is to sponsor. with £50,000, the spring 1994 tour of English Touring Opera (formerly Opera 80), which is taking La Bohème and L'Elisir D'Amore to fifteen venues in England.

The money will go towards expanding the chorus. Barclays has a tradition of sponsoring a touring arts company which gives it opportunities for local corporate hospitality. It previously supported London City

Antony Thorncroft



BERLIN

MUSIC/DANCE Jeunesses Musicales World Orchestra gives concerts on Sat and Sun at Gendamenmarkt, with piano soloist Leif Ove Andsnes (2548 9254). The 1993-4 season at the Deutsche Oper opens with a Ring cycle, first night Aug 24 (341 0249). Merce Cunningham Dance Company appear at Staatsoper unter den Linden on Aug 25, 26, 27. Daniel Barenboim conducts August Everding's open-air staging of Die Zauberflöte at Waldbühne on Aug 29 (200 4762)

THEATRE Metropol-Theater has West Side Story daily from tomorrow till Sun, followed from Aug 10 to 15 by Evita (2035 4117). Frelichtbühne an der Zitadelle has open-air performances of Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream daily except Mon till Aug 15 (331 6920). Komodie has daily performances of Neil Simon's play Runaway (882 7893)

opens a cycle of Beethoven piano Beethoven-Haus. The cycle continues every Tuesday till Sep 28, except Sep 1 (632500). A long-forgotten comic opera by 18th century composer Christian Gottlob Neefe, entitled Die Einsprüche (The Protests), will be performed on Fri and Sat at the Arkadenhof of Bonn University (655088). Bonn Opera opens its 1993-4 season on Aug 28 with Prokoflev's ballet Romeo and Juliet, followed on Aug 31 by the first of five performances of the new Lyubimov/Schnittke music-theatre piece Hommage to Zhivago (773667)

■ GENEVA

The summer jazz and concert series continues with Margaret Allisson and the Angelic Gospel Singers on Wed, and a one-man blues and folk evening with Chic Street Man on Fri, both at Théâtre de Verdure (386 3876). Dee Dee Bridgewater gives a concert next Mon at Hotel de Ville (312 4353)

HAMBURG

 The final week of the Kampnagei experimental theatre festival features a video-theatre work by German director Eva-Maria Martin, an evening entitled Arbeit Macht Frei by a theatre group from the north Israeli port of Akko, and performances by Colombian dance group Athanor Danza and American multi-media performer Rachel Rosenthal (270 5627) Hamburg's three-week music festival opens on Aug 22 and

focuses on Brahms, Schoenberg and Egyptian-Greek composer Jani Christou (1926-70), Conductors appearing at the festival include Gerd Albrecht, Kent Nagano, Yuri Temirkanov, John Eliot Gardiner and Lorin Maazel (247747)

MUNICH

OPERA FESTIVAL Tonight and Thurs: Donald Runnicles conducts the Rennert production of Don Giovanni, with Thomas Allen and Carol Vaness. Tomorrow and Fri: Marek Janowski conducts Nikolaus Lehnhoff's staging of Die Walkure, with Janls Martin, Nadine Secunde and James Morris, Wed: Roberto Abbado conducts Günter Krämer's new production of La traviata, with Julia Varady. Sat: Meistersinger with Bernd Weikl and Lucia Popp. End of season (National Theater 221316)

■ NEW YORK THEATRE

 Kiss of the Spider Woman: a Kander and Ebb musical, based on the novel by Manuel Puig, directed by Harold Prince, with a star performance from Brent Carver as the heroic homosexual window dresser (Broadhurst, 235 West 44th St, 239 6200) Angels in America: the first half

of Tony Kushner's epic, freewheeling play about gay life, Reagan-era politics and Mormonism. Not to be missed (Walter Kerr, 219 West 48th St, 239 6200) The Who's Tommy: a stage adaptation of the classic 1969 rock opera, a collaboration between its original principal author, Pete

Townshend, and director Des McAnuff (St James, 246 West 44th St, 239 6200)

The Sisters Rosensweig: Wendy Wasserstein's play, a comedy with serious undertones, about the reunion in London of three American wish sisters (Ethel Barrymore, 243 West 47th St, 239 6200)

 The Perfect Ganesh: Terrence McNally's poignant play about two middle-aged American women from Connecticut making a pilgrimage through India (City Center, Stage 1, 131 West 55th St, 581 1212)

Three Hotels: a drama by Jon Robin Baitz in which a couple discover the spiritual cost of the rise to corporate power (Circle Repertory, 99 Seventh Ave South,

at West 4th St, 924 7100) Born to Rumba: a musical about sex, sin and sacrifice, set in a pre-Castro Havana nightclub (Duo Theater, 62 East 4th St between Second Ave and Bowery, 598 4320) MUSIC/DANCE

Mostly Mozart Festival: tonight's

concert features the Borodin Trio with Sergey Leiferkus. Orchestral concerts tomorrow, Wed, Fri and Sat are conducted by Neeme Jarvi. The soloists tomorrow and Wed are pianist Lilian Kallir and violinist Maxim Vengerov, and on Fri and Sat, pianist Garrick Ohlsson and cellist Antonio Meneses. Next Mon: William Christie conducts Les Arts Florissants. The festival runs daily

Hall 875 5030) New York City Opera: repertory for the next two weeks consists of Carmen and three Puccini operas La boheme, Tosca and the original 1904 version of Madama Butterfly. A 15-performance run of Romberg's

except Sun till Aug 21 (Avery Fisher

The Student Prince opens on Aug 14. The first new production of the season is the New York premiere of Tippett's The Midsummer Marriage on Sep 9 (State Theater

870 5570) Alice Tully Hall hosts classical jazz concerts at 20.00 tomorrow, Fri, Sat and Sun (721 6500). This week's quest artist at Blue Note Jazz Club and Restaurant is George Howard, music at 21.00 and 23.30 daily from tomorrow till Sun. Next week Raeburn Trio (131 West 3rd St, near Sixth Ave, 475 8592)

■ STUTTGART

LUDWIGSBURG FESTIVAL This month's recitalists are Jessye Norman (Aug 6), Antonio Menes (Aug 12), Paco Pena (Aug 13), Deon van der Wait (Aug 14), Barbara Hendricks (Aug 16), Anne Sophie Mutter (Aug 26) and Shlomo Mintz (Aug 28). Neville Marriner and the Academy of St Martin in the Fields give a concert on Aug 25. The stival runs till Sep 26 (07141-949610)

■ VIENNA

 The season of open-air performances in the palace gardens of Schönbrunn runs till Aug 14. Vienna Kammeroper's production of Don Giovanni alternates with a Moscow Chamber Ballet staging of Mozart's Requiem (513 0851) Dance Festival: the final week of performances at the Volkstheater features Stephen Petronio Dance

Company from New York tomorrow

and Wed, Regine Chopinot's Ballet

week's concert programme include a Mozart and Schubert programme tonight at the Konzerthaus with Ensemble Wien, a recital by a Japanese children's choir on Wed at Arkadenhof, a Mozart, Strauss and Bartok programme with European Community Youth Orchestra conducted by Leonard and an original instruments concert with Musica Antiqua Köln on Sun at Theater an der Wien. There is also a series of Schubert song recitals at Lichtental (4000 8410)

Attantique on Fri and Sat. and

Finnish National Ballet on Sun

Klangbogen: highlights of this

ZURICH KYBURGIADE Last year's inaugural event was

so successful that the Kyburgiade (Aug 12-17) seems certain to become a fixture on the map of chamber music festivals. It owes its unique atmosphere to the open-air setting of Kyburg Castle near Winterthur, and to the participation of one of Europe's leading young string quartets, the Carmina Quartet. They are joined this year by the Vienna String Sextet (Brahms, Bruckner), the Orlando and Cherubini Quartets (Mendelssohn Octet), the Basie Madrigal Soloists (Schütz, Monteverdi, Gabrieli) and Michael Collins, who joins the Manfred Quartet in Mozart's Clarinet Quinter on the opening night (Booking at Winterthur Tourist Office 052-212 0088, or Musikhaus Jecklin in Zurich ARTS GUIDE Monday: Performing arts guide city by city. Tuesday: Performing arts guide city by city. **Wednesday:** Festivals

Thursday: Festivals Guide. Friday: Exhibitions Guide. European Cable and

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Super Charmel: Financial Times Reports 0630 Wednesday Super Channel: Financial Times Reports 2130 Thursday Sky News: Financial Times Reports 2030; 0130 Friday Super Channel: European Business Today 0730: 2230

Sky News: Financial Times Reports 0530 Saturday Super Channel: Financial Times Reports 0930

Sky News: West of Moscow 1130; 2230 Sunday Super Channel: West of Moscow 1830 Super Channel: Financial Times Reports 1900 Sky News: West of Moscow 0230; 0530 Sky News: Financial Times Reports 1330; 2030

BONN

Samuel Brittan

Europe will still need a monetary system



longest was based on an intrinsically valuable commodity, gold,

evolution rather than conscious government planning. But each attempt at a paper replacement has eventually come to grief. Whenever exchange rates are fixed or semi-fixed, longing eyes are turned, from many different points of the political compass, on the supposed benefits of floating rates. Whenever rates are floating it is not long before demands are made for

'stability", and schemes are

hatched for the regional or

worldwide pegging of rates. A good case can be made in principle for saying that either extreme of purely floating rates or completely fixed rates, such as the gold standard or the now somewhat visionary EMII, would be better than the limping compromises with which the world has struggled But until there is sufficient international government we shall have to continue limping along with mixed systems. National authorities will never be prepared for long to treat the exchange rate with indiff erence, like the price of tomatoes. Nor, on the other hand, will they give absolute priority to maintaining a parity over all other objectives at all times whatever they say.

The postwar Bretton Woods system, in which exchange rates were tied to the dollar, served the world fairly well. So long as US inflation remained low, all that other countries had to do was to maintain their dollar parities as long as possible, while they imagined they were carrying out Keynesian demand management policies. Whether Bretton Woods could have remained without the inflationary financing of the Vietnam war we shall

But it usually takes a shock of this kind to shatter a system of pegged exchange rates. In the case of the ERM, the shock

unification and the German government's unwillingness or inability to finance these costs through normal budgetary means. As a result an interest rate policy which suited Ger-man needs has been prohibitively tight for other countries concerned to fight recession.

It may have been too high for Germany too. In coming months German interest rates are likely to drop to levels which, had they been reached a little earlier, would have avoided the crisis of the ERM. One lesson is that, if a currency system is to work, the anchor country must concern itself with the stable growth of nominal spending in the whole area, which is something the Bundesbank has resolutely refused to do.

An independent but accountable central bank needs to have clear and unified leadership

Another lesson is that an independent but accountable central bank needs to have clear and unified leadership. An assembly of provincial notables, each of whom had one vote, might have suited Germany during its reconstruction period of the 1950s when the dollar was the only international currency that counted. It is hopeless for a leading world financial power, which is also at the heart of the European Community. A better model is the New Zealand Reserve Bank whose governor. Don Brash, is personally responsible for success or fail-

In a famous essay in favour of floating rates (in Essays in Positive Economics, published in 1953), Milton Friedman argued that insisting on fixed exchange rates, and making domestic costs adjust, was like refusing to shift the clock for summer time and exhorting people to get up earlier instead. But this analogy tells against some of the more farfetched claims for floating

he United Nations at the weekend signailed a breakthrough in the search for peace in Bosnia-Hercegovina when Bos-nia's President Alija Izetheg-ovic grudgingly endorsed a broad framework for a settle-

The plan, unveiled by Lord Owen and Mr Thorvald Stolt-enberg, claims to preserve Bosnia's sovereignty as a union of three constituent republics. In reality, this plan amounts to Bosnia's partition along ethnic

rates. For a frequent resort to exchange rate changes can be

compared to shifting the clock

by changing amounts every day in the illusory hope of sav-

ing people the need to make the slighteest adjustments in

their habits. If depreciation

becomes not a very rare resort, but a way of life, employers

and trade unionists become used to it and project further depreciation and inflation into

their expectations. The great

gain that the ERM produced

for France was that it broke

through the cumulative cycle

A European currency system

will have to be rebuilt for two

reasons. One is that a single market is incompatible with

volatile and unpredictable

exchange rates. There may be other and even more severe

obstacles, such as different

national rules and practices.

But currency instability can-not be brushed aside by refer-

ence to futures and forward

Secondly, monetary policy

cannot be indifferent to the

exchange rate. For it is the

main link between a country's

price level and that of the rest

of the world. The severe reces-

sions in Scandinavia have

shown that abandoning the

exchange rate peg does not thereby enable a country to "go for growth". The different

British experience is due both

to the fact that the recession

began much earlier and the

use made of the period of ERM membership and tight money

before that to foster a competi-

tive and non-inflationary atmo-

Much now hangs on the European Monetary Institute

which is due to start next Jan-

uary as successor to the Basle

committee of EC central bank-

ers, and which will attempt to

co-ordinate monetary policy

among EC members. It has

been accepted by all members,

including even the UK, which has insisted on the opt-out

from full monetary union. A

consistent monetary policy for

the whole Community, aimed

at a non-inflationary growth of

spending, is both desirable for

its own sake and as a precondi-

tion of exchange rate stability.

of depreciation and inflation.

Serbian and Croat leaders welcomed the constitutional agreement as the means to end the 16-month war which has killed tens of thousands of people and driven 2m from their homes. The agreement, if it sticks, sanctions a Serbian victory. Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, his main backer, have won their war. They have suc-ceeded in destroying Bosnia and replacing it with a loose confederation of ethnic states. The war was about territory. First the Serbs, then the Croats

to grab as much land as possi-Mr Izetbegovic finally succumbed to international and domestic pressure, abandoning his insistence on preserving a united, federal state. At the weekend he told Radio Sara-jevo that the "younger generations will be left to realise the dream of Bosnia".

and finally the Moslems tried

Serb forces currently claim to control 72 per cent of Bosnia and the Croats about 19 per cent. They expanded their territory at the expense of the Moslems Rosnia's higgest ethnic group, which comprised 44 per cent of the pre-war 4.35m

Mr Karadzic calls the war 'inevitable" because Serbs could not live under Moslem rule after 500 years under the Ottoman empire. He claims the war was the combustion of enturies of suppressed ethnic

But the jumble of mosques. Orthodox and Catholic churches - many of which are now in ruins - reflected the centuries of co-existence. "If everyone really hated each other so much, why were [there] so many mosques left to destroy?" asks Mr Haris Silajdzic, the Bosnian foreign minister.

General Ratko Mladic, Bosnian Serb commander, has masterminded the Serbs' path of destruction - burned villages, looted houses, and bombed-out factories. The Bos-

Breakthrough for a broken land

Laura Silber assesses the peace plan for Bosnia-Hercegovina drawn up at the weekend

any vestige of Moslem heritage in Bosnia. Hundreds of mosques and graves have been

When the war began in earnest, Serb fighters, then backed openly by the Yugoslav People's Army, expelled hun-dreds of thousands of Moslems in eastern Bosnia. But their campaign passed nearly unno-ticed as international outrage focused on the Serbian encirclement of Sarajevo. Few Moslems remain in eastern Bosnia, where they once comprised a majority. They are confined mostly to isolated government strongholds: Srebrenica, Gorazde and Zepa. These towns, three out of six "safe areas" proclaimed by the United Nations, are at the mercy of their Serb besiegers

The war was waged mainly in towns where Moslems, according to the 1991 census, comprised the majority.

Mr Milosevic and his proxies have nearly succeeded in achieving the ethnic division of Bosnia. This was unthinkable when the war began in April, 1992. Moslems, Serbs and Croats lived together in apartment blocks. In Sarajevo, the cosmopolitan capital, one-third of all marriages crossed ethnic But the international com-

munity, under the stewardship of the peace envoys, has now sanctioned the creation of ethnic states by force. Even Mr Izethegovic at the weekend publicly admitted he was now defending "the Moslem

Pushed into a corner, Mr Izetbegovic had little choice. The mediators first re-invented Bosnia's multi-ethnic "presi dency" (the collective leadership elected in 1990), and then exploited already existing divisions within it. The 10-member body now remains split over the agreement. The three Serb representatives oppose any division of Bosnia, fearing the new Moslem state will have no place for ethnic minorities.

Many fear that the future that awaits each mini-state of the new Bosnian union is one



of ethnic dictatorship and violent racism - the opposite of the harmony promised by the peace envoys. The West, which so pompously adopted the principle of a multi-ethnic Bosnia at last August's London conference, has now unceremoniously abandoned it. The document adopted in London pledged to end the violence and reverse "ethnic cleansing", reaffirming Bosnia as a sover-

eign independent state. Bosnian politicians, except for the three Croat members of the presidency, have criticised the new agreement.

"Europe is abandoning the struggle to stop the rise of fascism, be it from any ethnic group," said Mr Selim Beslagic, the mayor of Tuzla, who is struggling to preserve his democratically elected multi-ethnic leadership. "It rewards the

aggressors and punishes the victims." he adds. Lord Owen has been opposed

to the republic's partition, saying it is not an ideal solution. While he has promised to fight on behalf of the Moslems to secure a viable state for them, he has so far failed to come up with the goods. Mr Milosevic hailed the

agreement because it "totally affirms Srpska republika", the self-styled Serb state. Mr Izetbegovic stressed that the agreement was "preliminary", explaining that the fate of Geneva talks hinged on negotations over the maps.

The biggest challenge remains. In their relief at breaking the impasse, Serb and Croat leaders appeared to forget that all three sides in January also endorsed the constitutional principles of the

Vance-Owen plan. Vance-Owen plan.

If Lord Owen and Mr Stoltenberg hope to salvage any pretence of negotiating a fair and stable settlement to the war, then they will have to ensure that the Moslerus are granted, as promised, at least 30 percent of Bosnian territory in the proportions over the future negotiations over the details of a peace settlement. They must also ensure that the Moslems have guaranteed access through hostile territory to vital ports on the northern River Sava and the AdriWOLAL T

n the current phase of negotiations, which pro-duced this weekend's plan, there have been some ludicrous offers, among them Mr Karadzic's suggestion to build a tunnel out of Sarajevo, besieged and heavily bombarded since the beginning of the war, for the 380,000 inhabitants to travel to other parts of their "state".

The co-chairmen reportedly are upset that Mr Karadzic has so far refused to withdraw heavy artillery, which was agreed at the London Conference, and break the siege of

Sarajevo. The Serbs have not offered to make any concessions. If the Moslems, are to have any chance of preserving a Bosnian state, then they must have control over the corridor leading to strategic ports and not be at the mercy of their Serb and Crost adversaries. The olan does not give control over the external borders of the entire new Bosnian union to the weak central government. It also leaves open the number of currencies to be circulated. The plan calls for demilitarisa tion of the Union, but it does not specify how this will be achieved.

There are huge armies in Serbia and Croatia that are directly involved in the conflict," says Mr Nijaz Durakovic. an opposition deputy who is part of the Bosnian delegation. The recognition of the collapse of a multi-ethnic Bosnia means the passage to ethnically-based states. Anti-nationalist Serb leaders are now asking where will they live. Partners of mixed marriages are wondering where they will go.

Mr Milosevic is in a hurry to reach a settlement, with the firm conviction that it will undermine the logic of the sanctions regime. Mr Karadzie has time on his hands. The remarkable lack of panic about the US plans to launch airstrikes reflects the Bosnian Serbs' belief that they have won the war.

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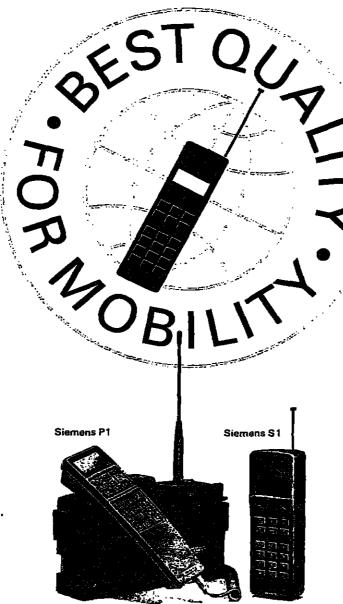
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Dynamic economies | Lesser and greater evils of Israeli bombardment of pinning futures on 'old-fashioned' coal

From Mr Richard G Tallboys. Sir, As chief executive of the international industry association for one of the world's great growth industries, with coal producer members from 14 countries, I am repeatedly surprised at hearing British ministers and others referring to coal as being regarded worldwide as an old-fashioned

Where do they get their information? Who do they listen to? World production of hard coal has grown from less than 2,800m tonnes in 1980 to more than 3,500m tonnes in 1992. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe forecast is for world hard coal demand to rise to 4,300m tonnes by the year 2010. Some forecasts predict that by then coal will once again take precedence over oil as the largest single source of commercially traded energy.

Many developing countries see coal as the most readily available and plentiful fuel for the generation of the increased electricity that accompanies the earliest stages of an improved standard of living. It is perhaps even more significant that the world's most

Pacific Rim all plan to increase Official plans for Japan, Korea, and Taiwan all forecast a continuing growth in the use of coal for power generation. The latest forecast by Japan's Electric Power Development Company sees coal's share of Japan's energy mix doubling over the next decade as 26 new coal-fired power stations come on stream. Steam coal demand for electricity generation in Japan is seen as rising from 31m tonnes in 1992 to around 74m tonnes annually by the year 2002. Few countries are more environmentally con-

Huge investments continue to be made in coal-fired power stations using the technologies already available to ensure that coal can be burnt more efficiently and in an environmentally acceptable way. Across the world economies

with a good track record in backing winners are backing

It would appear that almost every country with prospects for significant economic growth sees coal as a prime fuel to generate the electricity without which no country can provide the improving standard of living that their people expect. Richard G Taliboys

chief executive, World Coal Institu dynamic economies around the 3 Logan Place,

southern Lebanon

From Mr Zalli Joffe,
Sir, Your editorial, "Lesson
for Israel" (July 29), calls for
an explanation. Lebanon
should be responsible for curbing the Hizbollah Alas, Lebanon, being a "subsidiary" of Syria, allows it a free hand. Your leader speculates that Israel's activities will compromise the peace talks. Syria, the most important negotiator with Israel, is actively supporting the Hizbollah. To talk peace on the one hand and to terrorise the north of Israel on the other hand is simply unac-ceptable. And if Lebanon cannot curb the terrorists and

is left with no alternative but to "do the job" itself. Comparing the situation to Bosnia is an unjust statement: Moslems in Bosnia had no choice but to flee, just because they were Moslem. [And yes, they fled, inter alia, to Israel, not to England.] The Lebanese have a choice. The Hizbollah, like any other entity, cannot survive within a hostile popu-lation. Terrorism against Israel flourishes because Hizbollah is supported by the Shiz inhabitants of south Lebanon. Let the government of Lebanon clean its back yard. Let the inhabitants of south Lebanon express their hostility to the

Syria does not want to, Israel

unfortunately the lesser of two evils, which alternative can be solved by Syria and Lebanon. Zalli Jaffe, Jaffe, Fund Shefi & co. 31 Ramban Street, Jerusalem 91-073, Israel

From Or C W R Long.
Sir, Your editorial, "Lesson for Israel", is entirely correct. Israel's current military activities serve to heighten the radicalisation of the populations it so mistreats. The emptying of villages, the sacrifice of large numbers of innocent lives and the creation of yet more hundreds of thousands of refugees - at which Israel leads the world by far - will not enable it to achieve its professed aim of destroying Hizbollah, though it will no doubt end in

the occupation of a further slice of Lebanon In the light of previous practice, it must be the presumption that no US-led coalition is going to treat Israel as it did Iraq, imposing sanctions and, if necessary, driving it from terri-tory taken by force. Could it not, however, find it in its conscience to give at least a token indication of its unspoken disapproval of indiscriminate retaliation by, for example, suspending the cultural rela-tions which link countries terrorist group. Israel will welcome these inhabitants back.
No Israeli is pleased with these mass evacuations. It is

Extent of Uruguay Round boost to trade is underestimated

From Mr Richard Blackhurst. Sir, Samuel Brittan's recent article, "Trade and macroeconomics" (July 12), contained, as usual, a number of insights and arguments with which I am in complete agreement.
Two points, however, war-

rant clarification. The article refers to the General Agree-ment on Tariffs and Trade estimate of "a \$200bn (£133bn) per annum increase in world trade from a successful conclusion of the whole Uruguay Round". In fact, the figure comes

from a study by Ian Goldin and

Dominique van der Mens-brugghe released last year by the OECD Development Cen-

tre. Their figure of \$195bn was quickly rounded to \$200bn.

Moreover, the figure is an estimate of the income gain (more goods and services produced from the same amount of resources) from a successful Uruguay Round, rather than an estimated increase in world

It is also arguably an underestimate. It takes into account only the increase in market access for merchandise trade expected to result from the Uruguay Round and not increased market access for services. Furthermore, it is widely accepted that the strengthening of the GATT rules and their extension into new areas will also give an important boost to world trade and income by increasing the

predictability and stability of international trade rel-

Some readers may be puzzled by the cryptic nature of the sentence which, after noting that freer trade reallocates jobs more efficiently inside each

country, adds "but [it] does not directly destroy or create new

Technically, it is true that freer trade leads to "fewer jobs than otherwise" in inefficient industries and "more jobs than otherwise" in export-oriented

industries.
But it is also true that under a broad set of plausible circumstances, there will be an absolute increase in the number of export-related jobs. That is, gain in employment in the export sector as compared to the pre-liberalisation period. Moreover, these jobs are likely

to be higher-paying ones:
In the US, the typical manufacturing job in an export-oriented industry pays 17 per cent more than the economy-wide average, and there is no reason to assume that the situation is to assume that the situation is very different in western Europe. Freer trade creates new and bettar-paying jobs. Richard Blackhurst.

director, GATT Secretarial,

SED)

Number One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL Tel: 071-873 3000 Telex: 922186 Fax: 071-407 5700 Monday August 2 1993

High costs of going green

entering a new phase. After two decades of frenzied environmental rule-making, attention is switching to questions of compliance and enforcement - and to the costs of cleaning up. Governments, pres-sure groups and industrialists need to take more account of that change if environmental policy is to move forwards.

The raft of environmental laws and treaties which has been passed at both national and international levels has focused particularly on industrial pollution. The European Commission alone has issued about 200 "green" directives. This regulatory flurry has gene some way to answer the early campaigns of environmental

Politicians have begun, rightly to call for more uniform enforce ment of these rules, recognising that countries can secure trading advantages - or suffer - from discrepancies in the way that environmental rules are applied. Last year's move to set up an EC network of pollution inspectors was a step in the right direction.

But better policing is far from the whole answer. A more measured approach to costs is also required. A dramatic example is the US's Superfund programme to clean up contaminated land. The US General Accounting Office has suggested that the costs to the government's Environmental Protection Agency and the private sector could be \$300bn in 1990 money over the next 30 years, and that the defence and energy departments could face further liabilities of \$200bn. Complying with these regulations would undermine large parts of the banking and insurance sector. No wonder such compliance looks increasingly unlikely to happen...

New rules

Uncertainty about whether past regulation will be enforced can also stall important new rules. In the UK, a decision on whether to remove more of the traces of lead in drinking water, following new, tougher World Health Organisation guidelines, is becoming embroiled in the debate about whether EC pesticides standards

conceal the fact that some past regulation is unworkable and that The first was published on July 21.

priorities must be established between competing claims. In some cases they will be right, too. to re-examine the scientific and economic basis for the rules. The EC water directives, among the oldest of European green rules. are a case in point.

For their part, environmental pressure groups deserve much of the credit for the tightening of controls on pollution. But unless they recognise the change of mood, they risk being left out of the next phase of the debate. For example, they have not had much of a role in shaping European water standards because of their unwillingness to concede that some of the quality levels they are demanding go beyond what is necessary to protect public health.

On the sidelines

Similarly, they have been almost entirely excluded from the debate over Britain's coal industry, and may put themselves on the sidelines of this autumn's UK government review of nuclear power. Coal-burning power stations are among the main causes of carbon dioxide emissions, implicated in global warming, whereas nuclear power emits none. However, the main lobby groups' entrenched opposition to nuclear power has led them to put more weight than is yet credible on the potential of energy efficiency schemes and wind and wave power as alternatives to coal.

But if the environmental groups are to play a bigger role in the debate about compliance and to have a chance of telling the public whether companies are meeting politition regulations, they need more information. Too many details of industrial emissions are kept hidden on the grounds of commercial confidentiality. Making companies publish data on the amount of waste discharged to severs would be a start so would releasing more reports from the many government committees studying the health effects of pol-lation. Unimately a civilised pol-try towards the environment will depend on all parties concerned being fully informed and seeking agreement both on what is desir-

Covernments should not try to. This is the second of a series of editorials on environmental issues.

Management by machismo

The message from IBM and a number of other big concerns could not be more clear. Jobs in which they have invested so almost any type of western company, at any level, are no longer secure in today's brutally competitive global marketplace. But what is less well understood is the need for companies to replace naked insecurity among their workforce with a redefined set of relationships to motivate those employees whom they wish to retain. The nature of those relationships. explicit and especially implicit, will dictate each company's productivity, flexibility, creativity

and competitiveness. The pressures to cut, cut and cut again have become irresistible in certain industries and companies especially those, like IBM, which have taken far too long to adjust their corporate strategies to the new realities of their particular marketplaces. Even strategically healthy western companies, such as US General Electric, have delayered, "downsized" and refocused their activities, redefined their core "competences" and businesses, and sold or subcontracted the rest. Many companies are now moving onto some form of business process re-engineering", which in plenty of cases will reduce jobs further.

in the Anglo-Saxon economies, unlike Japan, a further source of pressure comes from enthusiastic shareholders, who cheer each successive cut as a sign that the company is getting itself in shape.

Employee morale

Mr Lou Gerstner, IBM's new chairman, is undoubtedly right to be wielding his hatchet. But this is not a sustainable way to run a company over time. Academic research has shown consistently that, while fear may motivate in the short term, prolonged uncertainty creates a fall in employee morale and productivity which is hard to halt, let alone reverse. Many of the best employees leave, while the rest are inclined to put their heads down and cease to

give their all. Companies which take this approach are practising the antithesis of the adage that "our employess are our greatest asset". Their behaviour contrasts starkly with the continued striving of large Japanese companies, even in their

current straitened circumstances to hang on to the employees in much. Many are doing so by "insourcing", pulling work back in

from their suppliers.

For an organisation to remove the insecurity of its employees and re-metivate them, while retaining the flexibility to adjust its size as necessary, it must first of all involve them more in deci-sion-making. If people feel at least in partial control of their affairs, they are better able to accept that change has become a way of life.

Just as necessary is a re-definition of the type or types of rela-tionship, formal and implicit, which the organisation wishes to have with the people who work for it - not all of whom will remain as internal employees.

Sideways careers

There are plenty of models to choose from. One of the bestknown is Professor Charles Handy's "shamrock", with its three leaves: "core professionals", "the contractual fringe" and "part-time or temporary workers".

Three characteristics, in particular, are common to all the models. First, the need for many people to develop "sideways" careers and a "portfolio" approach, instead of expecting to climb steadily within a single company and remain with it throughout their working life. Second, the consequential need for each employer to provide everyone with the time, opportunity and resources for continuous pro-fessional development, so that their skills remain up-to-date and tradeable. Third, the need for all kinds of flexible working arrangements to be encouraged within

each category.

None of this is mere theory. Silicon Valley companies have been applying various elements of it for some time, as have some architectural practices since recession forced them to slash their permanent staffs. One of the most striking examples is the external "managed contracts" under which Manpower, the employment ser-

vices company, provides staff for various companies, including IBM.
Not all organisations will wish
to be "mixed" or flexible. But they all need their employees' commitment, and must take steps to repple Computer today launches the Newton MessagePad, the first product of its much balvhooed efforts to create

a multi-billion-dollar market for "personal digital assistants" combining computer, communications and consumer electronics technolo-

The pocket-sized MessagePad can store, send and sort hand-written ages and notes and keep track of appointments. It is almost an electronic secretary. Scrawl "Call Mary" on the electronic tablet and it will automatically place the call. "Lunch with Bob, Friday" becomes an entry in your diary at your regular lunch time.

Yet, while John Sculley, Apple chairman, is telling customers that Newton will play a central role in the "digital age", Michael Spindler, who recently replaced Sculley as chief executive, must deal with the less appealing issue of Apple's

Newton may boost Apple's reputation as top innovator in the computer industry, but it is unlikely to make a big contribution to its earnings. Polishing up Apple's image could prove easier than repairing the company's tarnished earnings

Last month, Apple reported the worst quarterly results in its 17-year history: net losses of \$188m, after a \$321m pre-tax charge for 2,500 job cuts; operating profits down from \$212m to just \$17m (including interest and other income) on soaring costs; revenues up 7 per cent to \$1.86bn, but short of Wall Street's expectations of about

Apple's financial slide has raised serious doubts about whether the company can continue to invest heavily in research and development, the foundation of its success. Sculley's technology vision seems out of synch with harsh economic

As Lou Gerstner, IBM chairman, put it bluntly last week when realing plans for drastic cuts at Big Blue: "If you are going to have a technology vision, the first frame had better be making money."

Ironically, Apple, the archetypical high-tech start-up company hatched in a Silicon Valley garage by two young technology enthusiasts, now faces problems similar to those of IBM the established industry giant, albeit on a much smaller scale. Both companies have relied for too long on proprietary technology -IBM with its mainframe computers and Apple with its Macintosh personal computers (PCs) - letting competitors overtake them.

Throughout the 1980s, Apple charged premium prices - and maintained high profit margins because its Macintosh technology gave it an advantage over PC rivals. The computer maker is pinning its hopes for improved earnings on its new product line, writes Louise Kehoe

Apple looks to Newton's law

That advantage has been virtually wiped out in three years by Microsoft's Windows, a program giving Macintosh-like ease-of-use some 30m copies of Windows in use, it has become the standard operating system for PCs, the preference of corporate buyers and the platform favoured by developers of PC applications programs.

Forced to compete head to head with other PC makers, Apple launched a bold but risky bid, in late 1990, to increase its share of the PC market by lowering prices. For a time, the strategy seemed to pay off. Apple's share of the world market rose from about 8 per cent in 1990 to 12 per cent by the end of last year. But there it has stayed, despite continuing price cuts.

Apple may have stretched the Macintosh market to its limit. "The Apple Macintosh appeals to a certain type of customer," says Amy Wohl, an industry consultant and long-time Apple watcher. "Dropping prices does not expand the scope of Apple's market very much."

Wohl says Apple missed its chance in the mid-1980s to establish its unique Macintosh software as an industry standard. If Apple had licensed its software to other computer makers, before Windows took off, the company might be the market leader today, she suggests.

Instead, the technology that Apple once called its "crown jewels" now weighs heavily. Macintosh is not compatible with other PCs, so Apple has been limited to a narrow market segment while competitors have met the broader demand for standards-based PCs.

There have also been tactical errors. Apple began the financial year starting last September with a huge backlog of orders for the latest versions of its Macintosh PCs, but was unable to fulfil demand throughout the first half of the fiscal year. While competitors were lowering their prices, Apple held back until recently, not wanting to undercut the price of products which customers were waiting for.

When Apple was finally able to increase production to meet back orders, the company found many buyers had purchased competitors'

Apple Computer: more fruitful times ahead?



Another factor affecting Macintosh sales is uncertainty surrounding future products. Next year, Apple plans to launch a range of computers based on PowerPC, a more powerful microprocessor technology developed in partnership with IBM and Motorola, the secondlargest US microchip maker. Although Apple has assured software developers that their products will run on PowerPC computers, potential Apple customers fear that, when they buy a Macintosh, it may be the last in the line. Sculley is taking much of the ics charge he spent too much time exploring new technology and not enough on Apple's core PC business. However, Spindler, in his previous role as chief operating officer, was the steward of Apple's PC business long before his promotion to chief executive in mid-June.

Handing off the chief executive post to Spindler was "a non-event", Sculley said, because it merely made official a division of powers that had been in place, with Sculley immersing himself in creating opportunities for Apple and Spindler running daily operations.

Spindler "is the problem, or part of the solution", says David Coursey. editor of PC Letter, an industry

But Spindler's appointment has won praise from financial analysts. An Apple veteran who began as marketing manager for European operations 13 years ago, Spindler is the kind of "hard-nosed operations guy" Apple needs at its helm, they say. Colleagues call him a "superb

Certainly, Spindler has lost no time getting to grips with Apple's financial problems. Less than three weeks after his promotion to chief executive, he announced a restructuring of the company. "We must significantly – and perma<u>nen</u>tly – lower our cost of doing business." he told employees last month. In the past two weeks. Apple has laid off 2,100 workers and announced a further 400 job cuts, reducing the company's workforce by almost 16 per cent to 12,500.

pindler also announced moves to consolidate Apple's eight divisions into five business units. giving each more responsibility for profitability. The changes will eliminate duplicate functions, Apple says.

The effect of the cuts on Apple's prized R&D teams has yet to be felt, but industry observers predict that some of the company's long-term projects will fall victim to budget

Much may depend upon the success of the Newton MessagePad. If it is a winner, Spindler may be more inclined to continue investments in "personal digital assistants". However, observers predict modest sales of perhaps \$50m over the next 12 months - not enough to have much impact on Apple's earnings fall.

Though the company has narrowed its target market primarily to time out of the office, Newton MessagePad could mark a turning point. Like the first Macintosh PC introduced nine years ago, it could be the first of many products that will influence technological innova tion for years.

However, Sculley's brainchild is far from perfect: it lacks effective "wireless communications", as originally planned, and critics charge that its 3in-by-lin screen is too small to take more than a few words. At \$700-\$1,300 it is also expensive - and might end up as no more than an executive toy.

Nonetheless Newton represents Sculley's ambition once again to storm the technological high ground. "For Apple to remain an exciting company, we have to move beyond the personal computer," Sculley said recently. "Otherwise, The question now is whether years, but nobody will care."

Need to legislate now on privacy law

blame for Apple's predicament. Crit-



is their penchant for propagandising against a fundamental human right. They have PERSONAL been at it again in

VIEW the past few days, denouncing and distorting the modest proposals by Lord Mackay, the Lord Chancellor, to give UK citizens the kind of protection against invasions of their privacy as is enjoyed by other Europeans, and by Americans and Cana-

In fact, the real objection to Lord Mackay's "consultation paper" is that it calls for "consultation" rather than action. It is a further delaying device by a government that does not have the guts to cause discomfort to the newspapers which promoted its election.

The Lord Chancellor proposes no more than a new cause for action in the county courts (for damages up to a mere £10,000) to compensate individual victims who have suffered "substantial distress" as a

Sitting on the

■ If Theo Waigel, Germany's

yesterday, it may have had something to do with an

finance minister, was more polite than usual when conferring with

his opposite numbers in Brussels

unfortunate diplomatic incident

Heading home to Bonn after a

offices of eastern Germany, Waigel

31-year-old Fokker propeller plane

Rather than repair to the bar,

he decided to make the most of

his enforced layover by briefing

the attendant press corps on the troubles of the ERM and other

matters of mutual interest in the

comfort of Luthansa's Senator class

minister has to obey the rules and,

when Waigel could not produce

his Senator card, the formidable

lady guarding the entrance to the

VIP lounge would not allow him

and his entourage to pass.

carrier, is not in the best of

Lufthansa, Germany's flag

financial shape at the moment,

apparent act of rudeness. However,

if it fuels Waigel's enthusiasm for

it of its near monopoly position

privatising the airline and stripping

and may come to regret this

However, even Germany's finance

at Berlin's Tegel airport earlier

punishing day visiting the tax

was upset to find that his

tarmac

in the week.

would not start.

lounge at Tegel.

newspaper editors details about health or family rela-tenance any extension of legal aid. Article 8 of the European Conven- of privacy would end the clamour tionships. The victim must prove invasive conduct of a kind which would cause anguish to someone of ordinary robustness; this may be defeated by proof that the conduct aimed to serve the public interest. These are moderate recommenda-

tions, although objections of principle can be made to their legal fine print. It is wrong to place upon defendants the burden of proving such "defences" as consent, lawful authority, and public interest. It should be for the plaintiff to show these considerations cannot justify the invasion of privacy - to show, for instance, that the public interest

The only real danger to media freedom is the consultation paper's suggestion that pre-publication injunctions should be available on the "balance of convenience" basis appropriate for other torts. This approach is both unprincipled and petty-fogging: press stories should only be suppressed where there is no basis even for arguing that they could serve the public interest.

above the German skies, then some

good will have come out of the incident.

■ How Jim Slater, the former

extraordinaire. There was once

a time when it seemed as if the

financial world hung on Slater's

every word in much the same way

as the current markets hunger for

a word from George about what

he thinks is the next thing to go

Take last week. On July 26 Soros

declared in *Le Figaro*, the French

plan to speculate against the franc.

Four days later, he issued a press

his mind. Why does Soros talk so

much? Perhaps he is genuinely concerned about the global

financial system, or feels he has

unsophisticated politicians, at some

Whatever the reason, Soros could

future stage, of manipulating the

learn something from Slater,

another active investor whose

share tipping column in The

independent newspaper always

carries a note that the financier

has agreed not to deal in a share

within six weeks before and after

record has been subjected to even

greater scrutiny. Slater's weekly

to justify his actions so that he

cannot be accused by

release saying that he had changed

daily newspaper, that he did not

up or down.

financial shooting star of the 1970s, must envy George Soros, speculator

Talking shop

The least attractive result of harassment or molestation, and private members' bills. Accepation of intimate personal tion paper lies in its refusal to counnecessary to fulfil the promise of tance of a civil remedy for invasion At present, legal aid is denied only for libel actions, originally on the ground that the poor should not be encouraged to bring their "over-thefence" squabbles to court. The paper gives a wholly inaccurate justification for this unjust discrimination and concludes that the poor

The worst feature of the document lies in its refusal to countenance any extension of legal aid

should be as powerless to protect their privacy as they are to protect their reputation because "resources are very limited".

So they are, but if this tort is to have any deterrent effect on the buggers, eavesdroppers, data-defilers and dirty tricksters, it is absurd to confine the remedy to the rich. A belated recognition by the civil law of a right to privacy might be tion on Human Rights. It will not be much used (most victims of privacy invasions do not wish to relive their experience in open court) but the occasional courageous plaintiff will set important precedents which will make data collectors, private detectives, and gutter journalists mind how they go. The role of the newspaper indus-

try in opposing and delaying a civil right to privacy is both contemptible and counter-productive. It has involved an expensive public rela-tions exercise - originally by the Press Council and now by the Press Complaints Commission, which falsely claims to protect privacy by "voluntary self regulation". The real danger to press freedom

is that editors are behaving like the boy who cried "wolf". The Lord Chancellor's proposed remedy is, with some amendments, no danger to investigative journalism - unlike the draconian criminal privacy laws devised by Sir David Calcutt, or the statutory quangos recently threat-ened by parliamentary committees for these oppressive alternatives, and free editors from their obligations to trumpet, dishonestly, the virtues of the PCC.

They could instead point out that it is time for this government to stop "consulting" and to start legis-lating - not only to provide citizens with some legal protection to their privacy but to fulfil its alleged commitment to openness by a Freedom of Information Act and by reforms to the laws of libel and breach of confidence. The case for greater freedom of important speech becomes more compelling once it is conceded that some personal matters are important only to the private individuals they concern.

Geoffrey Robertson QC

The writer is the author of "Freedom, the Individual and the Law", the new edition of which will be published by Penguin Books next month

OBSERVER



any mention in his column. Soros's reputation for straight talking would be enhanced if he observed the same sort of rule.

Wygod's treasure ■ Meanwhile, another financier

worth watching is Martin Wygod, who last week pulled off the \$6bn sale of his nine-year-old company, Medco, to US drugs giant Merck. Wygod has done a good job building Medco into a market leader and deserves the near \$100m he will collect on his shares in Medco. But should he also get a special finders

Back in 1984, it seems, his fellow directors agreed that Wygod would get 2 per cent of the consideration if the company were ever sold (they later cut this to 1 per cent.) Such fees are standard among private companies in the US, but less common in public ones. Wygod's nice little earner has already caught the attention of the United Shareholders Association pressure group, and it would be surprising if it did not attract a law suit from a disgruntled shareholder focussing on possible conflicts of interest. The fact that Wygod has agreed to reinvest the fee in Merck shares is not good enough.

Cake walk

■ After the hamburgers come the doughnuts. Following the advances of McDonald's and Burger King in Poland, Warsaw cake-maker Blikle is on the way to franchising its indigenously famous brand name nationwide.

The expansion launched by company chief Andrzej Blikle, seconded by former Barclays de Zoete Wedd executive Piotr Pininski, crowns the company's 125 years of making and selling cakes in the centre of the capital. When the original shop was destroyed in the 1944 Warsaw uprising, the operation was moved next door and stayed open

throughout communist rule. Five more shops are already in the offing. But the company boss

whose son, Lukasz, is also in the business - says that while following the hamburger outlits' commercial strategy, he's not going to endanger Blikle's quality reputation by also following them too far down market. Whether that amounts to trying to have his cake and eat it, only time will tell.

Hot property

■ When Bill Hussey, well-known boss of Ghana's Ashanti gold mine, was picked to be operations director of the newly-formed Bakyrchik Gold, he was surprised to learn that his new workplace might be hotter than his last.

After all, the arid North eastern steppes of Kazakhstan, where Hussey is being sent to develop a 9m oz gold mine, is considerably closer to the Arctic circle than Ghana. But Hussey's latest challenge also happens to be just 250km west of the former Soviet Union's nuclear test sites. However, it was a false alarm. According to Hussey's geiger counter, detectable radiation levels at his new mine are less than the World Health Organisation standards.

Dining out

■ Sign outside a Mexican restaurant in Richmond, Surrey: Come inside and try our Jurrasic Pork fajitas. Eat some now before they become extinct....

FINANCIAL TIMES

Monday August 2 1993



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Belgium mourns death of king

The monarch's brother will succeed to throne, writes David Buchan

THE DEATH of King Baudouin has plunged Belgium into mourning - and produced surprise over the choice of his successor.

The 62-year-old king, a devout Roman Catholic who briefly abdicated in 1990 rather than sign Belgium's law legalising abortion, died from a heart attack on Saturday while on holiday in Spain with his Spanish-born wife,

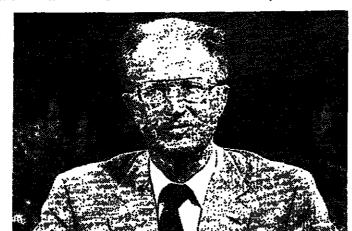
After a cabinet meeting to discuss funeral and succession arrangements, Mr Jean-Luc Dehaene, the Belgian prime minister, yesterday flew to Spain to accompany the king's body back

Last night, the government announced that the king's 59year-old brother Prince Albert of Liège would succeed to the throne and become the sixth king of the Belgians.

Up until the last minute the succession was open. Prince Albert is next in line for the throne but had been widely expected to renounce his right in favour of his 33-year-old son, Prince Philippe.

Philippe had been groomed as the heir apparent, but he is shy and unmarried. Talk that the throne might pass to his married sister, Astrid, was prompted by the 1991 change to the Belgian constitution allowing a woman to become monarch.

Belgium's proportional voting system and linguistic divide



King Baudouin: the bilingual monarch was seen as a unifying force

loons and Dutch-speaking Flemish give its monarchs more than just a figurehead role.

Belgian elections seldom throw up a clear winner, and it falls to the monarch to decide which party leader should try to form a coalition government. This must be linguistically as well as politically balanced.

King Baudouin played this role in an exemplary fashion. With the growing tendency of his countrymen to identify themselves as primarily Walloons or Flemish, or indeed Bruxellois, the bilingual monarch often came to be seen as the only real between French-speaking Wal- Belgian left holding the country cated in 1951 in favour of his 21year-old son. Nine years later, Baudouin married Fabiola, a Spanish aris-tocrat, avoiding as his ancestors had done Belgium's linguistic

eigner. But Fabiola suffered three miscarriages and they never had In 1990, he said he could not in conscience sign a bill legalising abortion. To his critics, mainly on the left, who argued that the king had a duty to sign any bill which the parliament had pas he wrote in an anguished letter

jealousies by wedding a for-

But the tall, stooping, bespecta-cled Baudouin was often dubbed

the "sad king" in a reign that got

off to a shaky start. The standing of his father, Leopold III. never

recovered from his controversial

decision to stay with his people

in May 1940 and surrender to the

Germans, against the advice of

his government which escaped to

London Raced with strikes and

riots in Belgium. Leopold abdi-

of conscience apply to everyone except the king?" In the event, the Belgian government allowed him to step down for a day so that the abortion bill could pass into law without his approval.

to the parliament: "Does freedom

At the time, it was said the for "a federal Europe", and his king's abdication-for-a-day would weaken permanently the monargration was yesterday praised by chy's position. But most Belgians seemed to appreciate the king Mr Jacques Delors, the European more after his moral gesture.

THE LEX COLUMN A real test for bonds

The fashion for buying European bonds on the premise that yields would fall to German levels should finally be consigned to history. The notion relied on ERM bands remaining intact during a swift and painless transition to monetary union. If the troubled passage of the Maastricht treaty did not deal the mortal blow. the latest crisis within the ERM certainly should. But that need not rule out lower bond yields in Europe. Since sterling was forced out of the ERM last September, 10-year gilt yields

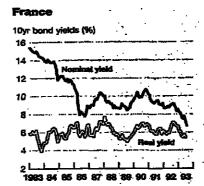
have fallen by 1.75 percentage points.
Investors in French bonds would doubtless be wary of a policy mix which contained both lower interest rates and devaluation. But evidence from other industrial countries suggests recovery after such severe recession is unlikely to pose an inflationary threat. Long-dated French bonds might also benefit from a migration of savings out of money market funds in search of higher yield. If that helped smooth the progress of privatisation, so much the better.

The worry is that real yields have remained stubbornly high throughout this recession in France and in most other leading industrial countries. That could imply a floor under bond yields, unless inflation continues to fall from current very low rates. Since a large portion of the French economy is tied to bond yields through the mortgage market, recovery could suffer as a result. In earlier recessions bond yields needed to fall below the rate of inflation before the economy started to respond. That looks impossi ble to achieve this time around, whether the franc is shackled to the D-Mark or not.

France

Whatever the destiny of the franc this week, the Paris bourse seems convinced it will be a case of reculer pour mieux sauter. With the CAC-40 touching new highs, investors are already anticipating that interest rates will be cut by one means or another, sparking recovery. The underlying fundamentals of the French economy appear strong. Over the past decade, French industry has established a fine record of productivity improvements with manufacturing labour costs now set at about 6) per cent of those in Germany. inflation remains below 2 per cent. France's balance of trade is strong.

Yet, as in the UK, the Paris market may have a long wait before the revival of corporate earnings meets



stock market expectations. The franc fort policy has inflicted severe damage on parts of the French economy as shown by the remorseless rise in unemployment to 11.6 per cent. French GNP may decline by as much as I per cent this year with corporate earnings slipping by 10 per cent. French industry has lost swathes of market share to competitors in 'soft' currency countries. Domestic demand has been depressed by rising unem-ployment and high real interest rates. The fragility of the French banking system, largely reflecting the precari-

will prove a further restraint. The French government has clearly demonstrated its intent to stimulate growth as a prelude to privatisation, but investors may have to wait a long time to reap the full rewards.

ous state of the Paris property market,

Building materials

The possibility of interest rate cuts across Europe is providing a further leg-up for the UK building material sector, which first shinned up the drainpipe when sterling devalued last September. Many building material companies have a big exposure to Germany and France. The hope is that a turn in the economic tide will boost

their earnings from the region. But the picture is not as simple as it seems. The German construction mar-ket has been decoupled from the rest of the economy. The housing market, in particular, has remained resilient as the stream of immigrants continues and east Germans repair their leaky roofs. The likes of RMC and Redland are already benefiting from this strength. It is not clear that falling interest rates would make much differ-

By contrast, the French construc-

off the scaffolding. Housing starts are at their lowest level for 30 years while the rest of the construction market remains depressed. However, the goveroment is attempting to resuscitate activity. Much of the proceeds of the Balladur bond will be sunk into construction. The complicating factor is that any realignment of currencies would also redraw the competitive map of Europe. UK companies would then lose some of their competitive edge: Pilkington, for example, would face greater pressure from St Gobain. With building materials companies already commanding lat premium rat-ings there is little headroom for more.

Electricity companies

Since Reuters has dignified the idea of handing excess capital back to shareholders, it is worth casting about for other possible candidates. Strong cash inflows, low debt or net cash and limited growth opportunities within a stable business are the main criteria needed. One group which clearly fits the bill is the regional electricity companies. By the time the important distribution review is completed next summer most will have minimal borrowing. They will also have dividend cover around 3 times, and annual cash flow per share averaging 112p. Already they are trading at a premium to net assets of about 50 per cent.

Such basic utility businesses should have much higher gearing and lower dividend cover. The electricity companies justify the excess equity on the grounds of diversification and regulatory risk. Yet the companies have not been over-endowed with credible diversification ideas. And even the most draconian tightening of the price cap next year would only make them cash neutral.

Besides, the regulator may take a dim view if the companies operate with too much equity and thus an unnecessarily high cost of capital. Far from waiting until after next year's review has established a medium-term regulatory framework, they may be wise to address the issue as part of that process. They could propose that they take on debt to finance a share buy-back for the benefit of shareholders, while customers might get a oneoff lowering of electricity prices. Those boards which try to skate around the issue of excess capital for fear that they may get harsher treatment from Professor Littlechild are only deluding themselves.

RE OK:

G7 set for showdown with Moscow

by John Lloyd in Moscow and Edward Balls in London

Group of Seven industrialised countries and leading international financial institutions believe Russian reforms may not survive the present period of political uncertainty and are preparing for a showdown with the Russian government after the summer holiday

One diplomat in Moscow said yesterday: "The reformers in the cabinet presently look weak and isolated, unable to move." Mr Sergei Shakhrai, a deputy prime minister and a close aide to President Boris Yeltsin, yesterday said the basic institutions of authority were paralysed. "Rust is eating

out the body of the state."

At stake is the G7 aid of \$44bn, announced at the US-Russian summit in Vancouver in April and approved at the G7 Tokyo summit in July. Included in that figure is the second \$1.5bn tranche of a \$3bn International Monetary Fund loan and accelerated loans from the World Bank worth up to \$2bn in the next

A top G7 official, who said he was "gravely concerned", said last night: "We always recognised that Russian policy would go in fits and starts - and this is certainly a fit. But with proper policy from now on, this would not prevent the success of Russian reform and further western support.

for a resistance force, he said. But Mr Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's

prime minister, was reported to

in September or soon after.

President Yeltsin, who

Commission president.

eral state.

returned early from a holiday a week ago, has made no public appearance or speech since then. Nor has he reacted to the urgent call by Mr Boris Fyodorov, the finance minister and the leading economic reformer in the cabinet. for the annulment of the central bank's decision to withdraw from circulation all pre-1993 cash roubles and for the sacking of Mr Viktor Gerashchenko, the central

He was clearly concerned at

the outset of reforms which in

recent years have devolved much

political and economic power to

the country's two regions - Flan-

ders and Wallonia - and to its capital of Brussels. However, the

king praised in his National Day

address on July 21 this year "the

democratic and peaceful way" in

which Belgium had become a fed-

He went on to argue forcefully

championing of European inte-

bank chairman. The central bank's action caused chaos last week in Russia and in the majority of members of the Commonwealth of Independent States still in the rouble

of Russian reforms have been fuelled by the precariousness of the budget and the power struggle between Mr Yeltsin and par-

Officials from the G7 governments and the World Bank and IMF believe the budget proposed by Mr Fyodorov, which envisages a delicit of some Rbs11.000 bn to Rbs12,000bn, may fall victim to pressure from within the cabinet for extra spending, especially industrial aid.

One senior G7 official said: "I think both Fyodorov and Yeltsin have been the losers over this last week. By the time it comes to September and decisions have to be made, I think we could be looking at some very bad figures

the Bosnian republics

have told a cabinet meeting yesterday that the so-called "security zone" in southern Lebanon had to be strengthened. He also claimed that Israel's week-long military action had created "a more propitious background for

the renewal of the peace talks". His view is not shared by Arab foreign ministers who on Saturday concluded a two-day meeting in Damascus at which they expressed their solidarity with Lebanon and promised \$500m to help repair war damage.

Continued from Page 1 member of Bosnia's collective

leadership warned that the emerging ethnic division brokered by Lord Owen and Mr Stoltenberg would drive a further million people from their homes and reward aggres-

"If we accept the ethnic division of Bosnia, there will be an exodus of one million people," warned Mr Mirko Pejanovic. In an effort to prevent the

republic's carve-up, three mem-

Bosnia. betrayal and an uncertain future "fascist" ethnic mini-

test against what they saw as the west's abandonment of They painted a dark picture of

bers of the Bosnian presidency

joined opposition deputies in pro-

"We have been confronted with a diktat from Lord Owen and Mr Stoltenberg to accept the proposal... because they want to wrap up the deal as quickly as possible," said Mr Miro Lazovic, speaker of the house.

Christopher visits Mideast | Border talks begin over

Continued from Page 1

yesterday apart from one minor skirmish. But as civilians began returning to the south. Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, leader of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah guerrilla group, pledged that the fighting would continue as long as Israel continued its occupation.

Mr Rafik al-Hariri, Lehanon's prime minister, said yesterday that the only way to remove the threat of Hizbollah was for Israel to commit itself to a full withdrawal from the south of his country. Once Israel did that

then there would be no need

Europe today

Europe will be dominated by high pressure areas which will bring plenty of sunshine with above normal temperatures in central and southern regions. Changeable weather will occur in northern and eastern sections. Much of the CIS will experience some showers and local thunder showers. In the extreme western CIS there will be frequent sunny spells but local thunder showers. Scandinavia will still be rainy and windy, particularly along the Norwegian coast. Afternoon temperatures will range between 19C-21C. Warm air over central Europe will spread toward the north boosting temperatures in northern France and Benelux. The Mediterranean will continue mostly sunny and very warm.

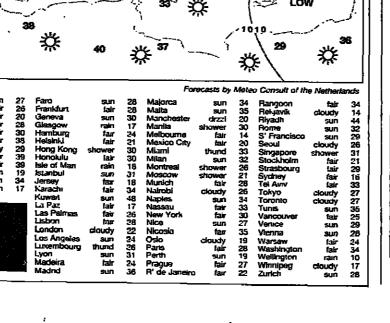
Five-day forecast

A series of low pressure areas will move across the British Isles to Scandinavia this week. As a result, the UK and Scandinavia will continue very unsettled with periods of rain. Meanwhile, central and southern regions will remain mostly dry with sunny spells Temperatures will continue to remain above normal. Warm and moist air over north-eastern

over France, the Benelux and Germany TODAY'S TEMPERATURES



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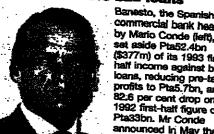


INSIDE

IRI delays sale of SME unit

IRI, Italy's state holding company, will postpone until at least September the sale of Cirio-Bertolfi-De Rica (CBD), the canned foods division of its foodatures group, SMC. It claims the bids received are madequate. Page 15

Banesto covers bad loans



commercial bank headed by Mario Conde (left), is to set aside Pta52.4bn (\$377m) of its 1993 firsthalf income against bad loans, reducing pre-tex profits to Pta5.7bn, an 82.6 per cent drop on the 1992 first-half figure of Pta33bn. Mr Conde bank would not be paying its final 1992 dividend and would transfer all its announced in May that the 1993 first-quarter income to bad loan provisions.

Medway Ports plans flotation Medway Ports, the privatised trust port, is planning a stock market flotation probably for early next year. The Sheemess-based company has markedly increased profitability, despite flat turnover, since a 537m menagement and employee buy-out in

Masco poised for Spring Ram bid



March 1992. Page 14

Spring Ram, the troubled UK bathrooms and kitcha bid approach by Masco Corporation, the US building products group, Bill Rooney (left), Spring Ram's chief executive, has seen the company's share.

Prospective p/e ratio:

The latest prospective p/e ratio for the FTA index of 500 industrial stocks for calendar 1993 is 14.6 vice (last week: 14.0). This companie with no ISES estimated pie for the "500" of 19.3 (182) for cateriar 1992. The official FT calculation control to the latest reported earnings, is 19.48

FUTSAIA me bond mic

25-27

Companies in this issue

ast week's meeting of

Asian and western for-

⊿ eign ministers in Singa-

pore gave an unexpected boost

four-year-old trade group revi-

calised by President Bill Clin-

ton as part of his vision of a "new Pacific community".

By backing Apec, the minis-

ters, whose talks were over-

shadowed by concerns about

regional security, at least revived hopes that the world

will be spared a round of inter-

Most Asian members

endorsed Mr Clinton's plan for

an informal Apec summit in

Seattle in November, while

south-east Asian countries

reached an uneasy compromise

on the future of Apec's main

rival, the proposed East Asia

The EAEC, an idea advo-

prime minister, would exclude the so-called "white" countries

and New Zealand - and has

been dismissed privately by its

opponents as racist. Dr Mahathir, on the other hand,

believes that the US will seek

to dominate Apec for its own

scifish ends and that Asians

must therefore stick together.

He is the only Asian leader to

have flatly turned down Mr

Under the compromise, the

EAEC will become a caucus

within Apec, but will also be

able to act independently, a

catch-all solution which left Mr

Warren Christopher, the US

Secretary of State, and many

other delegates saying they

The apparent rise of Apec.

meanwhile, has been greeted

with something approaching

enthusiasm. Mr Goh Chok

would be a "runring success".

Clinton's invitation.

were "puzzled".

the US, Canada, Australia,

Economic Caucus (EAEC).

continental trade wars.

Aetra Life Amber Day Asahi Glass

15 Heron Integrational Spring Ram

he battle for Gucci, the Italian luxury goods group, is like two shoppers fighting over an expensive bag at a Knightsbridge sale. Although outwardly genteel, they soon cast good manners aside as determination to prevent the other get-

ting the prize overtakes any interest in the article itself.
That is the tug-of-war now taking place between Mr Maurizio Gucci, grandson of the man who founded the company in 1922, and Investcorp, the Bahrainbased merchant bank, with which he shares control.

In the middle is the famous brand, best known for its handware. As the battle enters its second week and writs and counteractions start to fly, it looks increasingly as if Gucci itself, like the squabbled-over sale item, will come out worse for wear.

The company is no stranger to controversy. In the mid-1980s, Mr Gucci fought a bitter battle with some of his cousins, sons of the founder's three heirs, to stream-

"At the time, Gucci was a loosely run empire, in which ownership of many operations was fragmented between family fieldoms, although my father owned 50 per cent stakes in everything," he said in an interview with the FT last week. In October 1990, the campaign was finally concluded when Maurizio Gucci won a high court injunction in London against his cousin Paolo, preventing him from using the Gucci name commercially.

The latest battle looks more serious. First, the stakes are much higher. Investcorp, which has started legal action in New York to force Mr Gucci out of office, paid an estimated \$170m to build up its 50 per cent bolding at the height of the luxury goods

Gucci has turned out to be a poor investment. Although classic products such as its famous loafers continue to sell well, group turnover dropped from a peak of L299bn (£125m) in the year to Jameary 31 1991 to L225bn in each of the last two years. This year, sales are expected to recover marginally to L256bn. Net losses deteriorated to L36bn in 1991-92. Last year the deficit Haig Simonian on the fight for control of Gucci Leather under strain in a bitter tug-of-war



Maurizio Gucci: Investcorp has started legal action in New York to force him out of office

was cut, but still totalled L25hn. The picture is clouded by trading difficulties in the US, Gucci's biggest market outside Italy. Earnings at Gucci America have plunged because of recession and the shift away from ostentatious consumption. Losses rose to

L29bn last year and no turnround

is expected this year. The second reason for acrimony is that Gucci, like some of the special skins from which its shoes and bags are made, is one of a increasingly rare breed of independent luxury goods marques. Unlike others, such as Dunhill or Louis Vuitton, it is not part of a big conglomerate. Although no longer entirely in the hands of a single founding family, as in the case of its rivals Prada and Ferragamo, ownership of the Gucci name is a prize worth fighting for.

Mr Beppe Modenese, an Italian fashion guru, says he has never known a crisis as severe as that facing famous manufacturers. Some smaller names may even go under. But provided the

marques cut costs and reorgan-

ise, they should weather the

Such strong action could be impossible given Gucci's present ownership structure, which splits power evenly between Mr Gucci and Investcorp. Mr Gucci says the gap between them is unbridgeable because of different views of what Gucci represents. He presents himself as a busi-

nessman, dedicated to upholding the company's traditional values, versus the cold-blooded financiers, who would sell their stake what they did with Tiffany," the US luxury goods brand bought and subsequently floated by the merchant bank.

Mr Gucci claims his ability to initiate a streamlining plan for the group is proof of his managerial skills. He says the reversal of the financial slide indicates his strategy of trimming the product lines, concentrating on higher margin items and reducing the number of outlets to restore the brand's lustre. "The number of items and stores has fallen, but Gucci has regained the upmarket image that was in danger of being lost." He warns that a lengthy battle with Investcorp could return Gucci to the destructive state of the late 1980s. when, blocked by family wranglings, it failed to note warning signals in the market.

Mr Gucci's critics, who include not just investcorp but italian and Swiss bankers concerned

about the group's financial posiion, see things differently. Investcorp says Mr Gucci is highly mercurial and has little business sense. They argue that he has failed to act on the business plan hammered out four years ago when investcorp first became his partner. For example, they say. Mr Gucci has consis-tently failed "to present a budget which makes any sense or which could be passed by the board".

While he might make an ideal titular chairman or marketing chief, he is not the right man to run the company, especially in a deep recession. The bank's most serious accu-

sation is that he contravened the complex shareholding agreements between them. Typically, given Gucci's litigious history, the issue of the shareholding pact is highly complex and arcane. Broadly speaking, the pact gives either side the right of first refusal to its partner's shares.

Earlier this year, Mr Gucci faced unspecified financial prob-lems, which required him to obtain a loan, thought to be of SFr25m (£11m). A technical dispute over whether Mr Gucci pledged some or all of his shares in return for the money, since repaid, is at the heart of Investcorp's legal action. It claims it had the right to buy the shares from Mr Gucci before they were given as collateral.

Mr Gucci denies the shares were ever pledged to the bank. "I made use of all my resources" as collateral, he says, "But control of the shares was never given up, even for a second."

Mr Gucci has now offered to resolve the dispute by either buying out Investcorp's stake, or sell-ing it his own holding. "Let's put our offers in two sealed envelopes. Whoever makes the higher offer wins."

However, the proposal is disingenuous. Within seconds of the proposal, he added: "But they can't expect me to pay the sort of price they want, and they can't imagine I'd be prepared to give all this up for the much smaller amount of money they think they can get it for."

In the meantime, decision-making at the group is paralysed as

Deutsche Bank buys units from Treuhand

By Judy Dempsey in Berlin

THE Treuband, the agency charged with restructuring and industry, has sold a portfolio of businesses to Deutsche Bank, which will manage, restructure and ultimately attempt to sell

The sale represents a novel approach by the Treuhand, which has now sold more than 12,000 of the 14,000 enterprises under its control, though with some difficulty owing to Germany's economic downturn and the poor condition of some of the

Deutsche Bank, Germany's largest bank, has taken control of 13 enterprises, mostly in the construction and electrical sectors, through Deutsche Industrie Holding, a wholly owned subsidiary which specialises in eastern German investments.

DIH has agreed to guarantee 1.100 jobs and to invest more than DM80m (\$46.50m) in restructuring the enterprises in its portfolio. The sum paid to the Treuhand is undisclosed.

The construction enterprises include Leipziger Beton Union. Naunhofer Kieswerke and Chemnitzer Banhoff.

The arrangement will allow the Treuhand to concentrate on privatising the most difficult of eastern Germany's remaining enterprises, including the brown coal fields, utilities, and the chemical sector.

Several scandals, involving abuse of funds, have dogged the Treuhand over the past two months. This led to the establishing of a new division charged with monitoring all contracts signed with the Treuhand since it was set up in 1990.

DIH, set up in November 1991 as part of Deutsche Bank's strategy of strengthening its position in the five new eastern states. has so far acquired stakes in enterprises totalling DM46m. and has committed DM74.2m of investments as well as guaranteeing 2,300 jobs in these compa-

invested DM3.5bn in 349 branches in eastern Germany.

Deutsche officials say they expect returns on their investments to take several years. largely because eastern Germany has lost its markets in eastern Europe, the modernisation of the infrastructure is a lengthy process, and growing unemployment is reducing consumer

Computer seller starts chain of UK 'superstores' Three superstores, trading under the name "Byte - The Computer Superstore", will be SCH is gearing its stores particularly to small and medium-sized businesses, with a larly to small and medium-sized businesses, which it believes are businesses, which it believes are superstore", will be summer market. medium-sized businesses, with a "small but growing" private consumer market. PC market almost as large as the entire UK PC market in 1990. "Retail will be the fastest grow-"Retail will be the fastest grow-"

By Andrew Adonis in London

one of the UK's largest independent computer sales companies, is about to launch a nationwide chain of computer superstores in

The private Birmingham-based group, with an annual turnover of more than £100m (\$149m), plans to invest about £40m during the next two years on the venture, which it believes will transform the UK's PC market.

opened later this year - in Newcastle. Birmingham and the City of London. SCH plans to have up to 14 stores open by the summer of 1994. Their main competition will be from Dixons, which earlier this year bought four "PC World" superstores from Vision

Technology Group for £8.5m. Computer superstores are common in the US, but the concept has yet to catch on in the UK.

ill-served by current dealer arrangements.

Mr Peter Rigby, SCH's chairman and principal shareholder, "barely 5 per cent of comsaid: puter sales are currently through retail outlets; we believe it can reach 30 per cent fairly fast. expanding the market significantly in the process."

SCH expects about 70 per cent of sales to come from small and

The superstores, to be funded from retained profits, will mostly sell leading hardware and software brands such as IBM, Toshiba, Compaq. Apple, Microsoft. Lotus and Borland. They will also offer finance, training and maintenance packages. Romtec, the market research

company, expects that 27 per cent of PCs will be sold by a retailer by 1995, creating a retail ing PC distribution channel in the UK over the next three years," it said in a recent report. which predicted that superstores could account for more than 40 per cent of sales by 1995.

The Byte stores will be 16,000 sq ft or less - "recognising the difficulty of creating a personalised, service-oriented environment within an excessively large warehouse," said Mr Rigby.

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equity market looks set to follow those of the US and UK - showing sustained and impressive growth after a long period of inactivity.

With interest rates likely to continue falling, returns from European equities

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Trade rivalries to the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (Apec) forum, the Consumer and trade grown revi-Pacific message

which might otherwise regard themselves as trade rivals rather than partners.

Its 15 members are the US, Japan, the "three Chinas" (China, Taiwan and Hong Kong), the six countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations or Asean (Brunei, indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand), Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Korea.

At the Singapore meetings, an annual event hosted by cated by Dr Mahathir Asean and attended by its Mohamad, the Malaysian main trading partners, the main trading partners, the usual waggonloads of statistics were wheeled out to convince any remaining disbelievers

that increased wealth means increased responsibility: on the environment and human rights as well as tariffs and trade.

When, for instance, is a country like Thailand, which has based its export-led economic boom on cheap labour, judged rich enough to spend money on industrial safety? This issue is periodically raised by American labour unions and was taken up by the Thai press in May when about 200 workers, mostly women, were killed in a fire at a toy factory

near Bangkok. Mr Christopher declared that Asian countries had reached a

Economics Notebook By Victor Mallet

that Asia, Apec and Asean were important. Some of the figures were

hardly surprising: Apec may account for about half the world's gross national product, but then it does cover more than half the globe and includes the US, Japan and China. The statistics emphasised the well-known growth of Asia-Pacific economies, Mr Christopher, for example, noted that last year's US trans-Pacific trade of \$325bn was three times the country's trade with Latin America and 50 per cent more than with western

Tong, the Singapore prime minister, said he hoped it A corollary of this is that Asia is getting richer. It is already evident, as Dr Mahathir realises, that many The significance of Apec - as distinct from other trade blocs future disputes within Apec - is that it spans two continents. Asia and America,

level of technological develop-ment which enabled them to produce chemicals, sophisticated electronics and other items useful for chemical and biological weapons, and should therefore be prepared to sign agreements controlling the

An angry Mr Willy Claes, Belgian foreign minister and European Community president, wanted to know why Asian countries, which were so critical of Europe's performance in the former Yugoslavia, had not joined the Europeans in giving humanitarian aid. Other EC officials resented having to pay for aid to Cambodia, while the wealthy - and much nearer - Singaporeans held back. "They are not poor people," said one delegate.

regional group." between America and Asia. about such trade groups is

whether they undermine the latest round of negotiations on the greatest trade acronym of all - the Gatt. or General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade - which are coming to a head at the end of this year. argued that the Gatt should

have priority and that regional groups could make useful steps towards free trade as long as they were "Gatt-consistent". Nobody contested Mr Christopher's declared aim of "open

against . . , is that we do not abuse the strength that we develop by our numbers for protectionist reasons," said Mr Hans van den Broek, another EC Commissioner. "We would impinging fundamentally on the letter and spirit of Gatt." Nobody, not even Dr Mahathir, agreed with that.

peak for flotations

Free Trade Area which is sup-By Peggy Hollinger posed to come into being over 15 years) and the SEM (the sin-

gle European market) to name Australia wants Apec to be an "integrated regional mar-ket" and the US favours the establishment of some sort of trade and investment "framework", but Asian countries are

generally more cautious. As EC Commissioner Mr Manuel Marin of Spain pointed out, politicians pay lip service to global free trade but have a tendency to huddle together with their neighbours. "Every-body criticises the blocs," he "but everyone is trying to make friends in their natural

Another issue facing Apec is

how it should relate to the

other, often overlapping, trade

groups whose acronyms prolif-erate by the year – Nafta (the North American Free Trade

Agreement), Afta (the Asean

the EAEC setback, is to overcome that tendency and strengthen the trade bridge The question often raised

Asians and westerners alike

regionalism". What we all have to watch

Three-year

UK FLOTATIONS have hit their highest quarterly levels for three years as venture capitalists and private companies seek to take advantage of the current vogue for equities among investors.

A report published today by brokers KPMG Peat Marwick shows that 48 companies came to the stock market between April and June against 16 last year, 20 in 1991 and 25 in 1990.

nies have been listed, including two on the unlisted securities market, raising total funds of £1.1bn (\$1.63bn). This is more than the £899m raised in the whole of 1990, excluding introductions and adjusting for government privatisations and the Abbey National flota-

Mr Neil Austin, KPMG's head of new issues, said the enthusiasm for new issues was likely to last until the autumn when worries over possible budget measures would begin to materialise. The sharp rise this year had

been fuelled by a number of

factors, from the generally buoyant stock market to the opportunistic approach of venture and development capital-

Most companies coming to the market were small with market values of less than £30m. Mr Austin warned that, particularly in the light of the demise of the USM, this should

make investors cautious.

ists. "With the renewed confidence in the economy and current level of the market, those that have been waiting in the wings are putting their plans into action," Mr Austin

are looking more attractive.

European markets have discounted

ONDON investors are

being asked to provide

for a gold mining venture in

lic of Kazakhstan, formerly

Stockbrokers Williams de Broe are to float Bakyrchik

Exchange by placing 7.5m shares at 120p each, which val-

ues the new company at about

The promoters suggest that

this will be the only substan-

tial "pure gold" company to be listed in London and that the

flotation will provide "an early

opportunity to invest in Kaz-

Bakyrchik Gold (BK Gold) is

jointly owned by Minproc, the

Australian natural resources

and engineering group, and

Chilewich, a private company

based in White Plains, New

York, which claims to have 50 years' experience of trading

with the former Soviet Union.

BK Gold last October signed

a joint venture agreement with

the Kazakhstan government to

develop the Bakyrchik mine,

on one of the world's biggest

gold deposits - it has total

resources of 28.1m tonnes of ore containing 9.11 grams of gold a tonne - a total of 8m

troy ounces. The estimated

cash cost of production is \$120

an ounce, which would put it

among the western world's

Bakyrchik, located in an arid

region of the north-eastern

lowest-cost mines.

akhstan."

part of the Soviet Union.

MEDWAY PORTS, the subject of a £37m management and employee buy-out last year, is preparing for a stock market flotation - probably at the beginning of next year.

Despite flat turnover because of recession, the Sheetnessbased company has markedly increased profitability since the trust port was privatised. For the 10 months to December, Medway made pre-tax profits of £3.5m on turnover of £25.2m. In the first six months of this year, pre-tax profits

have jumped to £1.5m, Mr Peter Vincent, chief executive, attributes this to "a traumatic process of coming into a new world. We had to change our cost base from fixed to

This involved sharply reduc-ing the number of the company's workforce who are employed on a permanent

basis from about 600 at the time of the buy-out to the current level of 270.

Catering and security were quickly contracted out, but Mr Vincent said the company still employed just as many people on some days - the difference was that men were hired from local contractors as and when

He said: "We have moved from two-shift to three-shift working, giving round-the-clock coverage. We also have complete flexibility - an employee can be driving a forklift truck one day and painting a buoy out in the harbour the

Sheerness avoided containers and has instead concen-trated on three distinctive markets - cars, fruit and forest products - where it can offer quality service. The company expects to receive full B\$5750 accreditation by September. Mr Vincent said traffic levels

were flat and rates had been squeezed, but nonetheless the company had made excellent

It has appointed Charterhouse Bank to advise on a flo-tation, but does not rule out the possibility that it might be bought by a larger

Mr Vincent said: "If it was a safe pair of hands, we'd have to look at it very seriously. I see Medway as part of bigger group in the long-term, whether we build it up ourselves by acquisition or find a

The buy-out was completed in March last year and financed by \$20m of loans, £15m of preference shares and £2m of equity. Two-thirds of the workforce subscribed for shares. Mr Vincent said all existing workers are being granted options, so that they all have a stake in the flota-

BAT shows interest in Seita

By Norma Cohen. estments Correspondent

BAT Industries, the Anglo-American tobacco and insurance group, would consider taking a majority stake in the tobacco operations of Seita, the French state-owned tobacco monopoly, following its privati-

"If the tobacco business was to become free standing and we could acquire a majority stake - which it is not at all clear we could - then we might be interested," BAT

THE ENTIRE board of Amber Day, the UK

discount retailer, supports the search for a

chief executive from outside the company.

The board has decided that Mr David

Mr Stacey Ellis, chairman, said yesterday

Thomuson, finance director and a board

member himself, is not likely to be a suit-

able candidate for the post despite support

for him within the company.

By Norma Cohen

in acquiring the non-tobacco interests of Seita and would be interested only in acquiring a controlling stake. Also, it is not clear what form the privatisation of Seita will take. If it took the form of a public flotation, BAT would be unlikely to be able to acquire a sufficient

stake at a reasonable price, the company said. BAT was responding to suggestions in a press interview with its chairman. Sir Patrick Sheeby, that the company would be interested in returning to the UK tobacco market. France is one of the largest tobacco markets in Europe. It

consideration.

is of rather greater interest to us than Britain," he said.

BAT has tried unsuccessfully to penetrate the French market, which is dominated by Seita. Seita is estimated to control 80 per cent of all French tobacco distribution, and it has been difficult for foreign companies to gain a toehold in that market. BAT has only a small operation. BAT France, which

has a negligible market share. Recently. BAT agreed to swap some of its brands with rival American Brands, and in the process acquired that company's Lucky Strike and Pall

Spring Ram | An investment with the lure of gold receives approach from Masco

SPRING RAM, the troubled bathrooms and kitchens group, will today announce a bid approach from Masco Cor-poration, one of the largest building products groups in the US.

The US company is one of half a dozen to have shown an interest in Spring Ram since it issued the first of three profits warnings eight months ago and its shareholder value began to plunge.

Talks between the two companies have not been followed up by any concrete offer and Spring Ram is not expecting one until after interim figures are released in late September.

Masco's interest has received added weight because of its choice of adviser. The Michigan-based group has picked Mr George Magan of the small merchant bank Hambro Magan and it was Mr Magan who has been advising British Aerospace over its recent merger talks with GEC.

Spring Ram's chief execu-tive, Mr Bill Rooney, has resisted intense pressure from institutional shareholders, led by Prudential Corporation, to resign, as the company's share price has fallen from 181p over a year ago to 54p by the close on Friday. This has taken the market capitalisation down

from £672m to £200m. At last week's annual meet been approached by the rebel shareholders, as executive chairman. It retained Mr Roo-

untrue. It added that Mr Taylor was only

one of two or three external candidates

The company said that Mr Ellis would

not try to force a candidate on the board

which other members were unhappy

about. The board members are said to

have been concerned that Mr Taylor's

expertise is in the upper end of the cloth-

ing market and that he has insufficient

experience in discounted merchandise.

and no decision had yet been made.

refinancing plan from the High Court in London.

cing can go ahead, Heron faces an appeal this week against ratification in Netherlands Antilles from creditors claiming unpaid debts of \$42m.

Kenneth Gooding on the flotation of a Kazakhstan mining venture

Bakyrchik - projected to be among the world's lowest-cost mines

eppes of Kazakhstan, about 1.000km north of the capital, Almaty, was first opened in 1965. More than 6,000 people in the local town of Auezov are supported by the mine including 1,000 directly employed at a cost equivalent to \$3,000 a year for staff and \$2,000 a year for manual workers.

BK Gold holds 40 per cent of the joint venture and has management control. It says the infrastructure, shaft and mine development for a large-scale operation are essentially in place, and the directors estimate it would cost \$150m in today's money to duplicate this structure. But they suggest western capital and technical help is needed to bring the mine to its full potential.

The Bakyrchik mine geology and ore characteristics are complex, and this could lead to difficult conditions in parts of the mine and problems with ore treatment. BK Gold has opted to use Minproc's Redox (nitric acid oxidation process), which has never before been used on a commercial scale, to treat some of the ore.

The joint venturers intend to further L develop the mine in two stages, which they insist will each be viable in its own right. The first, to be funded by the 98.2m net proceeds of the London placing, will involve a heap leach and a sulphide plant being built, each to process 100,000 tonnes of ore a year, to produce a total of between 35,000 and 40,000 ounces of gold. Development at this stage will also include a

gold refinery. Gold, refined to be deliverable to the London bullion market, will be sold to Kazakhlars. The government wants to establish a Kazakhstan currency and to increase national annual gold output from the present estimated 12 tonnes to support it. If the bank fails to pay, the mine can export gold. BK Gold says the second stage of mine development would go ahead only when the directors were satisfied "as to the adequacy of the opera-tional procedures, mining methods and metallurgical processes, the availability of fund-

cal situation". If the go-ahead is given, probably not before the autumn of 1994, BK Gold would raise another £75m to increase output at the mine to im tonnes of ore and 230,000 ounces of gold a year.

ing and the status of the politi-

The company will be entitled to 75 per cent of net operating income until all the funds invested have been repaid, falling then to 40 per cent. The joint venture will pay no tax on the first five years of profits and then half the applicable rate (currently 25 per cent) for the following five years.

BK Gold's chief executive is Mr Kevin Foo, a metallurgical engineer who heads Minproc's office in Colorado, US. The operations director is Mr Bill Hussey, a mining engineer and formerly general manager of the Ashanti gold mine in Ghana. He has already moved to Kazakhstan.

See Observer

ing, the company split the executive role and appointed Heron gains court approval Mr Roger Regan, a building industry veteran who had for refinancing

Heron International, Mr Gerald Ronson's property group, has won approval for its £1.4bn

The plan has already been ratified in Heron's two other jurisdictions - the Netherlands and Netherlands Antilles - and has been approved by a substantial majority of credi-

However, before the refinan-

	CROSS BORDE	R M&A DEALS		
BIDDER/INVESTOR	TARGET	SECTOR	YALLE	COMMENT
News Corporation (Australia)	HutchVision (Hong Kong)	Satellite TV	£350m	Murdoch beets Pearson
AEI Music Network (US)	Units of BET (UK)	Music services	£18m	Cash disposals
Warner-Lambert (US)/ Wellcome (UK)	Joint venture	Pharmaceuticals	r/a	Major week for sector
Warner-Lambert (US)/ Glaxo (UK)	Strategic alliance	Pharmaceuticals	n/a	further alkances likely
Ingersoil-Rand (US)	Unit of Kugelfischer (Germany)	Erigineering	n/a	Expanding European Interests
Avanti Presa (US)	Unit of BCE (Canada)	Printing	n/a	BCE non-core disposel
MBO team (US)	Unit of Phillips (Netherlands)	Defence electronics	n/a	Philips completes sector withdraws
Eureko (Netherlands/ UK/Denmark/Sweden)	Cettic International (Ireland)	Insurance	n/a	Acquiring entire capital
Coats Viyella (UK)	Lone Star Die Cesting (US)	Engineering	n/a.	Buy through Dynacast atm
Arvin Industries (US)	Way Assauto (Italy)	Vehicle	n/s	Streathering

Going to Japan?

Amber Day denies split over board appointment

Mr Ellis was denying weekend press

reports that a split among the board mem-

bers had emerged over Mr Ellis's support

for one of the candidates currently under

Mr Paul Taylor, formerly a senior execu-

tive at House of Fraser and now at US-

based clothing retailer. Leslie Fay, is one

of the candidates, although reports that

Mr Ellis favours him above any others are

The company yesterday confirmed that

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FINANCIAL TIMES

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Shareholders in the Fund are advised that payment of a dividend of US\$2.00 per share for the year ended 31st March, 1993, has been approved by the Annual General Meeting held on 30th July, 1993. Coupon number 24 on hearer share certificates will be paid on presentation at the offices of the Paving Agents on and after 6th August, 1993. Cheques will be posted to holders of registered shares on that date.

Copies of the Report and Financial Statements of the Fund for the year ended 31st March, 1993, are available at the registered office of the Fund and at the offices of the Paying Agents.

Curação End August, 1993 By order of the Board of Manage

IRI postpones disposal of SME canned foods unit

By Robert Graham in Rome and len Rodger in Zurich

IRI. Italy's state holding company, will postpone until at least September the sale of Chrio-Bertolli-De Rica (CBD), the canned foods division of its foodstuffs group, SME. It claims the bids received are

The IRI board approved on Thursday the disposal of its 62 per cent stake in SME's frozen and baked foods division, Finitalgel, for L437bn (\$273.4m) to Nestie, the world's largest

Finitalgel's main subsidiary. italgel, is the second-largest group by sales of frozen foods and ice cream in the Italian market after Unilever, while its Gruppo Dolciaro Italiano

several food sectors in Italy, such as Parmalat and Eridania but none in ice cream or frozen foods. The purchase would give it a 27 per cent stake in the ice cream market and 15 per cent

in frozen foods. The failure to find a suitable buyer for CBD represents a set-hack after a smooth start for debt-burdened IRI's privatisation programme.

Among those bidding for

CBD, which has the bestknown brand names in Italy's canned goods sector, was Uni-The IRI board reportedly felt

the final offers were from bidders interested only in parts of the business. There has been strong union pressure to keep CBD intact to preserve jobs,

especially in southern Italy.

IRI is likely to begin talks with the final bidders, as well Nestlé has a big presence in as those who had pulled out.

It hopes to establish which group wants to buy specific parts of CBD and ensure the benefit of the break-up price is

Nestlé had long been a front-runner to buy Finitalgel. Analysts said the deal would significantly raise the size and profitability of the Swiss group's ice cream and frozen foods divisions. Nestlé said it aimed to develop some Finitalgel brands in other European

The deal values Finitalgel shares at L1,550 each. On this valuation, the whole company, with brand names such as Ale-magna and Motta, is worth L700bn. Nestlé estimates Finitalgel sales will reach the equivalent of SFr900m (\$596m) this year.

Aetna cautious despite advance

By Karen Zagor in New York

AETNA Life & Casualty, one of the largest US composite insurers, turned in improved results for the second quarter. How-ever, it said earnings remained unsatisfactory.

For the three months to June 30, it posted net income of \$146.1m, or \$1.32 a share, compared with a loss of \$45.2m, or 41 cents, a year earlier.

Operating earnings before extraordinary items were \$150.8m, against a deficit of \$73.1m a year earlier.

Mr Ronald Compton, chairman, said results from core

businesses were on track with expectations, but that company results continued to reflect unfavourable conditions in commercial real estate.

based company said its commercial property and casualty \$35m in the quarter, against an underlying loss of \$25m last year, before a \$26m reorganisation charge. Catastrophe losses

- Actnata financial services business recorded net income

The Hartford, Connecticutnarrowed to \$8m in the latest quarter, from \$11m

of \$1778 to the quarter, com-

pared with a loss of \$22m before reorganisation charges of \$4m a year earlier. The personal propertycasualty services turned in net income of \$12m, against \$6m

the previous year, before reor-

ganisation charges of \$30m. For the first half, net income rose to \$338.7m, or \$3.07, against earnings of \$73.5m, or 66 cents, a year earlier. Excluding extraordinary items and the impact of adjustments, income from continuing operations rose to \$290.1m from \$81.3m. Revenues eased to \$8.62bn from

Japan bails out credit group

THE JAPANESE govern is to provide Y19bn (\$180.4m) to help restructure an Osaka credit co-operative. The move: is another sign of official concern about deteriorating public confidence is some smaller financial institutions. Osaka Fumin Credit Co-

operative, with an estimated Y55bn in nen-performing leans, is to be absorbed by another credit co-operative in the region. Osaka Koyo. B is the first co-operative to receive assistance from the Deposit Insurance Corporation, which insures individual deposits for un to Ylüm.

The co-operatives are due to merge in November, and the transferred to the Osaka Soci-

Takeover :

Jewellers

Nova Scotia.

saves Peoples

PEOPLES Jewellers, Canada's biggest jewellery chain, has

been saved through a last-

minute takeover by its chair-

man Mr Duff Scott, a Toronto

He is backed by the Bank of

A new company headed by Mr Scott is taking over Peo-

ples' assets, including about

200 stores and involving about 1,500 jobs. The founding Ger-

stein family will end all con-nections with Peoples.

A wing of the Gersteins

blocked a financial restructur-

ing of Peoples last Thursday. forcing the Ontario court to put it into bankruptcy. On Fri-

day, the bank and Mr Scott reached agreement on a C\$70m

(US\$51.7m) takeover with court

approval.

The bank, owed more than
C\$100m by the old Peoples, is

financing the purchase by the

new company and has extended a new \$30m line of

About 12 stores have been

shut, but the rest will remain

in operation. The defeat of the

old restructuring, however,

means common shareholders

and unsecured creditors will

not get their money back.

which will buy them for Y35bn. Osaka Fumin was heavilyexposed to the property market and to the trading house turned-speculator Itoman, which itself has been taken over by the Semitomo group.

The use of government funds, which the DIC said was necessary to "maintain the soundness of the financial systen follows similar as tance to the siling Kanalshi Schillin Bank. The bank is to be liquidated later this year. - It is understood that about 11 skiplin – small local banks – are receiving assistance from their central bank, Zenshinren. There has also been a rush of mergers among credit co-operatives, which are suffering from

a lending hangover and an

larger commercial banks, whose share of consumer credit has risen to 36.9 per cent in 1991 from 14.6 per cent in In an attempt to attract cusfomers, some smaller institu-

tions offered higher interest returns, increasing their costs. The pressure on small. regional institutions is particularly severe because of close ties to companies in their local

tions have faced increased

competition from Japan's

This has tempted some to continue lending to these old clients even if their business prospects have deteriorated. With larger banks wary of taking on new branches, the government is having to bear

bail-out burden.

Northwest restructuring continues to hit profits

By Richard Waters and ren Zagor in New York By Robert Gibbens in Montreal

NORTHWEST Airlines, the fourth-largest US carrier, suffered a \$135.2m after-tax loss for the second quarter, after taking a charge of nearly \$100m linked to its financial restructuring.
However, Mr John Dasburg, businessman and former head of the Toronto Stock Exchange.

president, said the restructuring had resulted in new agree-ments with labour unions and financial accords which "substantially reduce our operating costs and restructure our debt and other financial commitments to manageable levels".

The company now had one of the most competitive coststructures of all US airlines, he

The results were announced after members of the flight attendants' union had ratified the agreement, under which Northwest has stayed out of the bankruptcy courts, clearing the last hurdle to acceptance of the plan. Northwest returned to profit

at the operating level in the second three months, with \$19.7m, as turnover climbed 7 per cent to \$2.1bn and operat-ing costs slipped 0.6 per cent. Other expenses of \$101m led to a loss of \$81.3m before the

restructuring charge and a tax credit of \$45.4m. The net loss for the period, of \$135.2m, compared with a loss of \$146m a year ago, when the company had reported a \$77.6m

3M up slightly at \$331m

3M, the US manufacturer of adhesives, magnetic tapes and other industrial and consumer products, turned in secondquarter net income of \$331m, or \$1.51 a share, writes Karen

A year earlier, it earned \$317m, or \$1.45. Sales were essentially flat at \$3.54bn, up from \$3.52bn.

Mr L. D. DeSimone, chairman, said the company expected higher earnings for the

year as a whole, in spite of a difficult economic environment and unfavourable currency translations. Like many other companies, 3M is finding Europe a particularly challeng-

For the first half, net income was \$661m, or \$3.02, on sales of \$7.06bn, against earnings of \$623m, or \$2.83, on sales of \$6.96bn. In the 1992 period, 3M took charges of 2 cents a share for accounting changes.

slides as provisions take toll

Banesto

By Tom Burns in Madrid

BANESTO, the Spanish commercial bank, is putting aside Pta52.4bn (\$377m) of its 1993 first-half income to provisions, a 218 per cent increase on its allocation for bad loans in the first six months of last

The dramatic increase brought pre-tax profits down to Pta5.7bn, an 82.6 per cent drop on the 1992 first-half figure of Pta33bn. Banesto did not release a first-half net

The strict savings policy had been outlined by Mr Mario Conde, chairman, to shareholders in May, when he announced the bank would not be paying its final 1992 divi-dend and would transfer all its 1993 first-quarter income to bad loan provisions.

The move is understood to stem from advice given to Banesto's board by the US investment bank J.P. Morgan, which is masterminding a rights issue and an international share placement designed to improve the Spanish group's weak capital base.

Banesto claims some 75 per cent of the rights issue has been subscribed with a week's trading to go. The demand raise some Pta52.6bn in what is the first tranche of the three-part capital-raising plan drawn by J.P. Morgan.

In the second tranche, Banesto will place 22.2m shares, priced at Pta1,900 each against a current market price of just over Pta2,000. The placement is with a group of investors including Mr Conde and sev-eral US institutions that have joined J.P. Morgan's \$1bn Corthe capital-raising venture involves a \$400m convertible bond which could be issued this autumn

The high first-half provisioning comes despite improved business in the second quarter of this year. Mr Conde said earlier this month that fee commissions in April-June realised Pta10.5bn, 11.5 per cent up on the first quarter of last year. Average monthly borrowing on the interbank market had been reduced to Pta236.6bn last month from Pta587.9bo in May.

Banesto's provisions now cover 56 per cent of bad debts, against 46 per cent at the end of 1992, a ratio which is still low when set against standards in the Spanish banking sector. These come close to 100 performing loans.

Oantas chief to resign

MR John Ward, chief executive of Qantas Airways, is to resign this month, ending speculation about his role at the Australian carrier after the arrival of British Airways as a major shareholder, Reuter reports from Sydney.

Mr Ward, chief executive since 1989, said he had decided to resign for a "whole host of reasons", but denied the decision had anything to do with British Airways. Speculation about Mr Ward's future emerged after it was revealed he had not backed the idea of a foreign carrier taking a big stake in Qantas.

His position will be filled in the short term by chairman Mr Gary Pemberton.

US aerospace head to retire

Gerald Johnston president and chief operating officer of McDonnell Douglas, the US aerospace group, plans to retire at the end of this year, Reuter reports.

Mr Johnston, 62, said although his health had improved since his return to work last October from a serious illness, he could not give the job as much as he

and Development ECU 450,000,000 Floating Rate Notes due 2002

In accordance with the provisions of the Notes, notice is hereby given that the Rate of Interest for the three month period ending 29th October, 1993 has been fixed at 7,4375% per annum. The interest accruing for such three month period will be ECU 94.00 per ECU 5,000 Bearer Note, and ECU 1,880.03 per ECU 100,000 Bearer Note, on 29th October, 1993 against presentation of Coupon No. 6. Union Bank of Switzerland London Branch Agent Bank



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Sales decline hurts result at Asahi Glass

By Robert Thomson

ASAHI Glass, the leading Japanese maker of glass products, reported an 11.7 per cent fall, to Y20.05bn (\$190m), in pre-tax profit for the first half to June. It blamed the result on falling sales of glass and construction materials along with private construction

orders in Japan. Sales for the period were down 0.7 per cent to Y484.4bn, compared with a year earlier, with core glass and construction material sales down 2.4 per cent. Those of electronics equipment were 15 per cent increase in sales, to YI.020bn, and a 2.4 per cent rise in pre-

Asahi Glass is a leading supplier of glass bulbs for televi-sions, demand for which has been in decline for the past three years. However, the company is continuing to expand its own electronics operations. which now account for 5 per cent of sales, including mag-netic disks and optical fibres. "It seems that a business recovery will require more time," Asahi Glass said.

For the full year to the end

of December, the company is

forecasting a 0.8 per cent

tax profit to Y41bn.

• Oji Paper, one of Japan's two biggest paper makers, is divesting production of certain quality coated papers to meet monopolies requirements ahead of its planned merger in October with Kanzaki Paper, which ranks seventh in the industry, writes Gordon Cramb in Tokyo. Oji said it was transferring production facilities and mar-keting rights for two types of

specialist paper, used for maga-

Chuetsu Pulp and Paper, in which Oji is the biggest shareholder with 7.6 per cent. A final sale to Chuetsu, the 12th biggest paper maker, would take place after three or four years.

part of a consolidation in the industry brought on by overcapacity, which has triggered a spate of mergers. In April, Jujo Paper and Sanyo-Kokusaku Pulp united to become Nippon Paper Indus-

The shuffling of assets forms

tries, with which the Oii-Kanzaki combine will vie for zine and book covers, to

Chinese issue highlights hunger for extra yield

THE hunger of US bond buyers for extra yield remains andiminished. That is the message from the continuing stream of "firsts" to hit the US bond markets: recent days have seen the first offering by a Chinese issuer, and the first 100-year corpo rate bonds to be sold for 40 years.

With the yield on US Treasuries back near historic lows at the end of last week, investors seem ready to consider anything that offers a decent yield premium. Last week's \$250m issue from China International Trust and Investment Corporation (Citic) spoke volumes about the new spirit of adventure among US bond investors.

A year ago, the issuer - a government-owned entity which finances joint ventures in China – would have been lucky to get a hearing in the market. Last week investors were prepared to give the Baal/ triple-B rated Citic 10-year money at a yield spread of only one percentage point over Treasuries, around a quarter of a percentage point lower than had been anticipated.

The fact that the size of the issue was raised from \$150m to \$250m said a lot about the strength of demand - even though there is little opportunity for investors to benefit from the sort of spread-narrowing which made early buyers of Latin American bonds rich.

Investors who felt uncomfortable with the political risk in Chinese

bonds have had the opportunity instead to lend to such comfortably familiar borrowers as Walt Disney. a rare issuer of straight bonds, and Coca-Cola. The twist: they won't get

their money back for 100 years. To many corporate treasurers and fixed-income investors, such longdated instruments seem difficult to justify. For investors, there is the perceived risk of lending to companies which simply may not be around in 100 years.

Mickey Mouse and Coca-Cola may seem immortal today, but the Marl-boro price cut this year has shaken tors' confidence in the longevity of premium-priced brands.

For treasurers, such long-term money raises different issues. Few, if any, can claim to have assets with such ultra-long lives against which to match the liability.

Why pay a premium over normal long-dated borrowing, however small that premium may seem? And how can they justify a move which has implications which stretch way beyond their company's planning

Walt Disney, whose characters are deeply engrained in the American psyche, probably has as much of a case as any for the durability of its assets. Mr Steve Schoch, assistant treasurer, says the Disney name and cartoon characters provide the long-term underpinning for the company. "Those characters

have had 50 or 60 or 70 years' life already, with increasing popularity around the world. There is no rea-son to expect that to fade," he says. Disney's \$300m issue carries a

yield of 95 basis points over Trea-suries, while Coca-Cola's \$150m deal was launched at an 80 basis point spread. Such debt looks attractive compared with other components of a company's long term capital. The 7.5 per cent coupon on the Disney bonds (issued at par) is equivalent to an after-tax cost to the company of less than 5 per cent, says Mr Jim Pelgrift of Morgan Stanley. With expectations of long-term inflation at between 3 per cent to 4 per cent, that leaves a negligible real cost of

For investors, the argument for buying such debt is simple: extra yield. Treasury yields at all maturities are at historic lows, forcing so-called "total return funds" to look for extra returns elsewhere. And though the 100-year maturity

looks scary, the duration of the ultra-long dated bonds (that is, their average life, when all future cashflows are discounted back to present value) is only a little higher than a conventional 30-year bond. That is because the yield premium in the early years, in present value terms, makes up for much of years, compared with just under 13 years for a 30-year bond. This extra duration, and the yield premium, are a way for investors to gear up their exposure to the long end of the bond market.

Perhaps surprisingly, given the popularity of the Citic and 100-year issues, yield spreads on conventional corporate bonds have not been driven lower by the hunt for igher returns. The spread on a typical 10-year bond issue from a double-A credit is around 40-50 basis points, much the same as it has been for some time.

The reason may be the sheer volume of bond issuance in the market this year. In the first three months. US companies raised a record amount through straight bond issues, a level which was almost matched in the second quarter.

The supply of new junk (subinvestment grade) bonds followed a similar pattern. The yield on the Merrill Lynch junk bond index at the end of last week was hovering around 400 basis points above Treasuries - back to its level of the late 1980s, before the crash that sent yield spreads out to more than 900. There is some \$22bn of new junk bonds in the pipeline, says one analyst - nearly as much as the total

issued so far this year. The deluge of bonds has helped Wall Street broking houses report record results this year. Underwritaround 40 basis points, having fallen to that level from 60 basis points some 18 months ago, says Mr Guy Moszkowski, an analyst at San-

The Wall Street houses may never have it so good again. Commercial banks, with little in the way of loan growth to look forward to, have been eyeing the corporate bond market for some time.

The five that had already won dispensation from the Federal Reserve to underwrite and trade J.P. Morgan, Bankers Trust, Citicorp. Chase Manhattan and Chemical - were joined last week by a sixth, NationsBank.

The ambitious North Carolinabased "super-regional" made its intentions clear earlier this year when it hired Mr John Griff, formerly head of syndicate for Lehman Brothers, to set up and run its bond department.

Its natural customers are not the large corporations which have the easiest access to the public debt markets. "We hope to open up to the market to medium-sized compa-nies," NationsBank said.

The arrival of the commercial banks makes it likely that, come the next underwriting boom, Wall Street will not have things all its OWN W3V.

Richard Waters

RISK AND REWARD

Franco-German futures link raises fears of exclusivity



details sketched out in the memorandum of understanding signed by the two futures exchanges last December. However, the move has broader

implications, both for the exchanges themselves and for the futures industry as a whole.

The announcement silenced persistent rumours that the exchanges had run into substantial difficulties in fleshing out the terms of their nemorandum. Futures market participants tend to be sceptical about talk of alliances between exchanges. and not without reason, since most previous attempts have failed.

The DTB/Matif effort, however, not only seems to have a brighter future than most, but also has an unusually broad scope. Both exchanges reject the use of the word "merger", and insist that each exchange will remain independent. The agreement "is an evolutionary process", according to a DTB offi-

However, the possibility that both will one day allow each other's members to have access to all products suggests the creation of a self-contained unit for trading French and German products, which could pose a serious competitive threat to other exchanges. But both exchanges say they may admit other exchanges.

In addition to the first phase of the link - DTB screens will be available in France for trading selected products and Matif members will be able to trade DTB products via DTB clearing members by mid-1994 - which was already broadly known, the details of the second phase have also now been thrashed out.

The Matif has agreed to pay on an undisclosed sum for the DTB's software, and two Matif products will be listed on the system and will cease to be traded on open outcry by the end of 1995. The Matif's key product, the 10-year French government bond contract, will continue to be traded in the pit, so the

change will also prove an important test for screen-trading.

Mr Roper Barton, head of business development at the London International Financial Futures & Options Exchange (Liffe) said the fact that two Matif products would cease to be traded on the exchange floor could "present a business opportunity" for Liffe to trade the products on its floor instead. It remains to be seen which users would prefer, although many still

say they favour pit-trading. What is certain is that the Matif/ DTB link will do nothing to ease the tensions which have sprung up in the increasingly competitive derivatives market. In the past decade, 18 derivatives exchanges have started up in Europe, winning market share from the once all-powerful US exchanges.

However, many observers believe that, despite the explosion of derivatives activity, expected to continue for several years as more over-the-counter business underpins futures trading, a mature market will not be large enough to support this number of exchanges. In particular, if some sort of European monetary union ever goes ahead, the current options contracts traded on Surope's exchanges, excluding options on individual shares, will shrink dramatically.

The new focus on forging links with other exchanges to ensure survival may have a knock-on effect on the prospects for Globex, the after-hours futures trading system developed by the Chicago Board of Trade, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and Reuters. The ardour of Europe's futures exchanges for joining the system appears to have dimmed since the launch of Globex just over

• Mr Gary Ginter has resigned his position as managing director of

Mr Ginter was responsible for developing a business plan focusing on marketing CME and CBoT products listed on Globez outside the US. He has left Globex to take a position as president of the board of directors and director of strategic planning for Oster Communications, the Iowa-based derivatives information group.

Tracy Corrigan

NEW INTERNATIONAL BOND ISSUES

the long-term cashflow. The Disney

bonds have a duration of 13.7 years.

while Coca-Cola's are just over 14

Borrower	Amount 17L	Maturity	Coupon %	Price	Yield %	Launch spread bp	Book runner
US DOLLARS							
Essar Gujarat, India(a)§	65	Aug.1998		100	-	-	Merrili Lynch Intl.
Manuzen Co.(b) Ф	150	Aug.1997	1.375	100	-	-	Nikko Europa
Columbus Discovery(f) * 1	27	Jul 1996	(f)	100R	•	-	Salomon Brothers Inti.
Gota Bank(h)‡	100	Sep.2001	(h)	100	-	-	Chemical Inviment Ban
CSFB Finance (Neths.)(i);	50	Aug.2003	Ø)	99.875R	•	-	CSFB
Skopbank‡	100	Aug. 1996	(c)	99.7FI	-	-	Goldman Sachs Inti.
Banestado	50	Feb.1996	10≥	100R	10.000	+570 (m)	Paribes Capital Market
Goldman Sachs Groupt	100	Aug.2003	(r)	99.625R	-	-	Goldman Sachs Intl.
STERLING						_	
Cingdom of Sweden	250	Dec.1998	7	99.2R	7.198	+36 (71/4%-98)	UBS/ SG Warburg Sec
lewielt-Packard Finance Co.	100	Dec. 1998	7.125	99.91R	7.132	+30 (714%-98)	Goldman Sachs Intl.
Coats Vivellaidi§	75.625	Aug.2003	6.25	100	-		Merrill Lynch Intl.
Anglan Water(e)•	65	Aug. 1998	6.5	111.5	-	-	J.Henry Schroder Wag
Greenhalls Group(IIS	109.993	Sep.2003	78	Ø	-	-	J.Henry Schroder Wag
SBG (Deutsch.)(p)	25 9.2 5	· (c)	zero	-		-	UBS
Witan Investment Co.(a)§	56.25	Sep.2008	6.25#	100	-	-	Baring Brothers & Co.
3i International, Neths.	150	Aug.2003	7.75	96.86R	8.223	+72 (8%-03)	SG Warburg Securities
YEN							
Taisei Corp.	20bn	Nov.1997	4.05	99.95R		•	Yamaichi Intl.(Europe)
aisei Corp.	100n	Nov. 1998	4.8	100.075R	4,779	-	Nikko Europe
iokyu Land Corp.	30bn	Aug. 1997	4.6	100R	-		Yamaichi Intl.(Europe)
CITIC	30bn	Mar. 1996	4,125	99.97R	4.151	-	Nikko Europe
Viitsubishi Corp. Finance	20bn	Dec.1996	4	100.58	3.838	-	Mentil Lynch Intl.
Mazda Motor Corp.	20bn	Aug.2000	5.1	99.925R	-	-	Nomura International
NSKIN	20bn	Aug. 1997	4.05	99.9R	-	•	Nomura International
Mitsui & Co.	10bn	Nov.2000	4.9	100.2R	-		Fuji Intl. Finance
Mazda Motor Corp.±	10bn	May 2000	Ø	100R	-	•	Sumitomo Finance Inti.
Mitsui & Co. (USA)	5bn	Nov. 1996	3.9	100.35R	3.788	-	Mitsubishi Finance Intl.

Borrower	Amount M.	Maturity	Coupon %	Price	Yield %	Launch spread bp	Book runner
CANADIAN DOLLARS							
Sudwest LB London Cap, Mkts.	200	Aug.1997	6.5	99.75R	6.573	+28 (m)	Lehman Brothers Intl.
ITALIAN LIRA							
Abbey National Treas. Services(s)	150bn	Aug.2000	10	101.875	9.620	•	JP Morgan
AUSTRALIAN DOLLARS					_		
State Bank of South Australia	100	Sep. 1998	6.75	100.75	6.569	•	Hambros Bank
DANISH KRONER							
Mortgage Bank of Denmark	750	Sep. 1998	6.75	99.67R	6.830	-	Morgan Stanley Intl.
Finance for Danish Ind.(n)	200	Aug.1998	7	102.039	6.509	-	Morgan Stanley Intl.
Great Belt	500	Sep.2003	7	100.425R	6.940		Morgan Stanley Intl.
SWISS FRANCS							
Osaka Electric Co.(c)+•	80	Aug.1997	1.125	100	-	•	Bank von Ernst & Cie.
Daido Hoxan(g) 🍎	200	Aug.1997	1	100	-	-	Credit Suisse
De Nationale Investeringsbank	100	Aug.1998	4.375	102	3.927	-	Banca del Gottardo
LUXEMBOURG FRANCS							
RZB, Vienna	1bn	Sep.2003	7.5	102.5	7.142		Crédit Européen
Final terms and non-cultable unless st placement. \$Convertible, (With equity FC 31.3725Av5. Called, the State of the price; Y785. FX: 107.4Y/S. c) Denom.: 31/6/98. e) Denom.: \$S000.+1127 wer. Libor + 378 in \$. Coupone and princip	warrants.; subject to SFrS0,000 + rants. Every	Floating rate 130% rute, at 50 warrants. 290 price: \$4.5	note. #Sen par + accr Ecorcist pr S. 1) Issue	n-ennual cou ued. Puttable los: Y998. FX launched on	pon. R: fb; in 3 years : 71.03Y/SF 19/7/93 wa	ed re-offer price at par. b) Denon Fr. d) Conversion a incressed to \$. a) Conversion price: Rs82.2 n.: \$10,000 + 2 warrants. Eve price: \$2,75. Callable at per 207m. Coupen pays 8-month

3% in S. Coupons and principal are indexed to Yes. Publishe from 3rd coupon payment date at par, 20 phonon. Streeg,000 + 50 searants, prince YSS1, FY: 71.04YSF, Calabite on 12/295 at 10/3% intigs 4% arrangle, 10 Coupon pays 6-month Libor - 1.1% for first of years and + eather. Calabite on 98/98 at par. 1) Issue faunched on 22/788 was excressed to \$200m. Coupon pays 6-month Libor - 0.129%; minimum reprimum 8.5%, 1) Issue is consideration for the acquisition of JA. Devensit and amount shown is the minimum that will be assued, ion price: 64.86, k) Putable on 58/96 at par. 5 Coupon pays 3-month Libor + 0.325%, m) Issues by E100m holding of 67 11.25% bands due on 22/786 was increased to 0.44556% bands due on 22/786, k) Backed by E100m holding of 67 11.25% bands due in 22/886 was successful from the 87 bands of 68.125m paid 68th-armangle and 5100m retention processes - relates to a separate series of coupons of 68 to 25/886 of Calabite at the first of Calabite at the form from 20/1866 of bonds of the consistent of Calabite at the first from 12/296 of bonds of the consistent of Calabite at the first from 20/1866 of bonds of consistent of Calabite at the first from 25/86 of bonds of the consistent of Calabite at the first from 20/1866 of bonds of consistent of Calabite at the first from 25/86 of bonds of the consistent of Calabite at the first from 25/866 of bonds of the consistent of Calabite at the first from 25/866 of bonds of the consistent of Calabite at the first from 25/866 of bonds of the consistent of Calabite at the first from 25/866 of bonds of the consistent of Calabite at the first from 25/866 of the consistent of Calabite at the first from 25/866 of the consistent of Calabite at the first from 25/866 of the consistent of Calabite at the first from 25/866 of the consistent of Calabite at the first from 25/866 of the consistent of Calabite at the consistent of Calabite at the consistent of the consist

NEW ISSUE These securities having been sold, this announcement appears as a matter of record only. JUNE 1993



Bank of China (established under the laws of the People's Republic of China)

U.S.\$200,000,000

Floating Rate Notes 1998

Credit Suisse First Boston Limited

S.G. Warburg Securities

BNP Capital Markets Limited

Deutsche Bank AG London

ABN AMRO Bank N.V.

Commerzbank Aktiengesellschaft

The Development Bank of Singapore Ltd.

Fuji International Finance PLC Merrill Lynch International Limited

Samuel Montagu & Co. Limited

Morgan Stanley International

Swiss Bank Corporation

Salomon Brothers International Limited

Bank of Tokyo Capital Markets Limited

Banque Bruxelles Lambert S.A.

Dresdner Bank Goldman Sachs International Limited

Mitsubishi Finance International plc J.P. Morgan Securities Ltd.

Nomura International

Paribas Capital Markets UBS Limited

Bankers Trust International PLC Bayerische Vereinsbank Aktiengesellschaft

Crédit Commercial de France

IBJ International plc Investment Company of The People's Republic of China (Singapore) Pte Ltd

Lehman Brothers International

Nikko Europe Plc

LTCB International Limited Westdeutsche Landesbank

Girozentrale

Yamaichi International (Europe) Limited

WATERGLADE INTERNATIONAL **HOLDINGS PLC**

INCORPORATED IN ENGLAND COMPANY NUMBER 1711623

ISSUE OF 2,623,261 WARRANTS TO SUBSCRIBE FOR ORDINARY SHARES OF 1P EACH AT PAR

APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE TO THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE FOR THE ABOVE SECURITIES TO BE ADMITTED TO THE OFFICIAL LIST.

FULL PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE REGISTERED OFFICE OF THE COMPANY WATERGLADE HOUSE 5/7 IRELAND YARD

LONDON EC4V 5DQ FOR A PERIOD OF FOURTEEN DAYS FROM THE PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE AND FROM THE COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENTS OFFICE OF THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE DURING THE TWO BUSINESS DAYS POLLOWING THE PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

NOTE: THIS ANNOUNCEMENT APPEARS AS A MATTER OR RECORD ONLY, ALL THE WARRANTS HAVING BEEN ISSUED AS PART OF A RECONSTRUCTION OF THE COMPANY'S ISSUED CAPITAL

DATE OF ISSUE 2 August 1993

DOORNFONTEIN **GOLD MINING COMPANY LIMITED**

tration No. 05/24709/06

ANNOUNCEMENT

An Industrial Court judgement, in which an order was given against Doomfontein for payment of compensation and reinstatement of employees dismissed in December 1991, has been handed down and is being studied.

As soon as reasons for the judgement are received, Doornfontein will consider what further action it needs

30 July 1993

A member of the Gold Fields Group

CONTRACTS & TENDERS

HUNGARY INVITATION TO TENDER

Air Traffic and Airport Administration Komplex Foreign Trade Company

IMPLENTATION OF AN AIRPORT TERMINAL AREA RADAR CONTROL SYSTEM

In the name of the Air Traffic and Airport Administration of the Ministry of Transport, Communication and Water Management of the Republic of Hungary, the KOMPLEX Foreign Trade Company invites bids for the supply, installation and commissioning of a Terminal Area Radar Control System (with a complete software documentation) at Budapest Ferihegy Airport. The Republic of Hungary has signed a finance contract with the European Investment Bank /EIB/ for the partial financing of the project.

The tender is open, under the same conditions, to all firms (natural persons or corporate bodies) from at least the member countries of the European Communities /EC/ and Hungary.

The complete tender documents will be available starting August 2nd, 1993 from:

KOMPLEX Foreign Trade Company

Andrássy út 10 H-1807 Budapest VL

Hungary

(Attention: Dr. Novák Lajosné, Head of Department)

Telephone: (36-1) 132-0592 Fax: (36-1) 131-6527

The tender documents may be consulted on the premises of the KOMPLEX Foreign Trade Company between 09:00 and 14:00 on workdays or purchased against payment of a non-refundable of USD 1000 (or, in case of Hungarian companies, of the equivalent in Hungarian Forint converted at the current official exchange rate). Payments must be made either in cash or into Komplex Foreign Trade Company's account no. 202-10816 at the Hungarian Credit Bank.

Bids, in English and accompanied by a bid security for 10 percent of the bid amount, shall be forwarded to the Komplex Foreign Trade Company at the above mentioned address before 13:00 on October 28th, 1993, when the tenders will be opened by the tender board. The tender results will be made public on December 15th, 1993.

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LEHMAN BROTHERS

Est. 1850

The Tradition Continues...

August 2, 1993

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Treasuries soar on poor GDP data Turmoil brings good times

MR Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve and a central banker who places a lot of faith in close analysis of economic statistics and forecasting, was left with egg on his face last week. To the delight of Treasury investors, the second-quarter gross domestic product report came in well below market forecasts.

growth in second-quarter GDP sent bond prices soaring, and the yield on the benchmark 30-year issue back down to near 6.5 per cent, its all-time low. Analysts had been expecting growth of around 2.2 per cent, while Mr Greenspan, who should know about these things, told Congress just over a week ago that GDP would advance by nearer 2.5 per cent

in the April-to-June period. Those comments plus some heavy-handed remarks about inflation and the possibility the Fed will have to put up interest rates to stem rising prices, had been taken to heart by the bond market, which was confronted with the unwelcome prospect of rising economic growth, rising inflation

After the declines of that week, this latest bond market rally came as a pleasant surprise, not least for equity markets investors, who several days ago were fearful interest rates may have bottomed.

A variety of explanations have been offered as to why Wall Street's best economists, the Fed chairman, and everyone else for that matter, got the GDP numbers wrong. The most convincing of these concerns inventories. During the first quarter,

when growth was extremely weak, companies piled up their strong consumer demand. When demand revived in the second quarter (consumer spending rose a healthy 3.8 per cent between April and June). rather than boost production, manufacturers ran down their stockpiles of goods. Clearly, analysts missed the inventory situation, which is why their forecasts were so awry.

If the slowdown of inventory accumulation adequately explains the surprisingly poor rate of growth in the second quarter, then by the same theory, the pace of economic activity in the next three to six months should pick up handily as manufacturers step up production to keep demand

This prospect, however, does not seem to worry Treasury investors, who concentrated on the headline GDP number. Combined with the even weaker first-quarter figures, the economy grew at a meagre 1.2 per cent rate in the first half of 1993, a sharp slowdown from the 4.1 per cent growth rate achieved in the final six months of 1992.

And, as Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette points out in its latest credit market circular: "It is even more disappointing and somewhat worrisome that the growth rate in the first half of 1993 was a full percentage point lower than the growth rate of the economy during the first half of 1992."

The first half of 1992 came not long after the economy had pulled out of recession. so everyone expected growth to be weak back then. That the latest growth rates cannot

match the performance of a year ago suggests the economy is in a poorer state than many imagine. All of this is good news for bonds.

The Treasury market is receiving an additional boost from overseas, namely the turmoll in the currency markets. As the European with it the entire European Monetary System, teetered close to collapse, international investors fled volatile European currencies for dollar assets such as government securities.

There was, however, at least one factor against US bond prices last week - the Bundesbank's decision not to lower count rate.

If the Bundesbank had cut the discount rate, even more money would have flowed into Treasuries. As it is, the bond market is doing well enough on its own, and forecasters are now looking forward to a 30-year yield below 6.5 per cent some time in the near future.

Patrick Harverson

UK GILTS

UK gilts yield

Restated at per (%)

Jul 23, 1993

THE fabric of European monetary union is in disarray and the ruling Conservative party has suffered a crushing regional defeat. Meanwhile, the UK government bond market, which thrives on economic and political stability, starts the week at a new high. On Friday, gllt prices at the

ultra-long end of the yield curve hit levels unseen for more than 20 years. Rising prices mean falling yields, which mirror the market's perception of where inflation is heading. At the end of the week, 8% per cent Treasury stock maturing 2017 - the lon gest-dated and thus most risky issue to hold - was yielding

only 7.825 per cent. However, gains were seen at all points of the curve. The 7.25 per cent issue maturing in March 1998 rose 🖁 to 1021, while the 8 per cent stock due June 2003 jumped by well over a percentage point to 1041.

The first surprise came in the middle-maturity range, when the Bank of England auctioned £3.25bn of eight-year stock. The size of the issue matched the previous record a month ago, when the Bank targeted overseas investors and attracted a poor response.

Last Wednesday's auction appeared to be aimed at nobody in particular - the maturity was too long to interest banks and building societies, but too short for the pension funds. It was also payable in three tranches which, for tax reasons, was expected to

deter the overseas investor. But demand was so fierce there was no tail - the difference between the average accepted bid and the lowest accepted bid. True, it was attractively-priced, and the market had positioned itself well, but one economist said the lesson to the Bank of England had to be: "If you can sell this maturity at this time

years

you can sell anything." Then, on Thursday and Friday, the European exchange rate mechanism stood on the edge of an abyss as the French franc plummeted through its official ERM floor of FFr3.4305 against the D-Mark. The Danish krone, Spanish peseta and Belgian franc were tumbling. Overseas investors, who had been piling into the gilts market, redoubled their enthu-

Yields on short-dated maturities, which indicate the market's expectation of interest rate cuts, fell sharply. Inves-tors were convinced that if the ERM fell it would enable member countries to cut rates in order to relieve the pressures on their economies and ease growing unemployment. The UK would then need to cut base rates to maintain its com-

Finally, long-dated stock sailed comfortably though the rocks of the Christchurch by-election, where the Tory party lost a safe seat with a 35 per cent swing against it. Overseas investors, who have been the mainstay of the recent rally, considered the defeat a

parochial mid-term matter. As far as the international investment community is concerned, there is still enough evidence that the inflationary pressure which makes long maturities tremble is a long

By Friday afternoon, the Bank of England was so optimistic that it announced a £1.3bn issue of stock ranging right along the yield curve. It announced £500m of 7% per cent five-year stock, £500m of 8 per cent stock maturing in 2013, and £300m of 27 per cent index-linked stock repayable in

However, the outcome of yesterday's emergency meeting in Brussels on Europe's buckled currency ladder is bound to reverberate through the UK bond market.

Peter John

phore h Banco Essi opens fund for foreign investment

By Peter Wise in Lisbon

BANCO Essi, part of Espirito Santo, one of Portugal's lead-ing private financial groups, is aunching a \$100m capital development fund in association with Mr George Scros, the international investor, to invest in Portugal. It will be five times bigger than any other if its kind in Portugal. The lead investor will be Soros Capital II, which will commit about \$50m to the fund. "Over the years Espirito Santo has developed strategic relations with new partners," said Mr Michael de Mello, of the fund's consultant team. "That is how we have built ourselves up after being nationalised in

1975." Banco Essi will commit \$7m to the fund. Other backers will be insurance companies, pension funds and other institutional investors.

The closed-end fund will have two closing dates: one on August 4 at around \$80m, and a second in November at

\$100m. The fund will typically invest in businesses over which it establishes control or a significant degree of infinence. There will be no hostile investments and the fund will not invest in the financial or real estate sectors.

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AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT BONDS

Focus on calm away from ERM storm

FAR away from the trials and tribulations of Europe's exchange rate mechanism, the Australian government bond market has been rallying, helped by expectations of monetary easing and a new-found status as a safe haven from Europe's currency storms.

However, with the half-point cut in Australian Interest rates on Friday, many investors may wonder whether there is further to go in the bond market rally, or whether it is best to take profits and switch their money elsewhere.

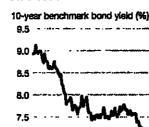
Mr Bernie Fraser, governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia, said Friday's reduction in overnight interest rates from 5.25 per cent to 4.75 per cent was "in response to evidence of continuing slow growth and low inflation".

The interest rate cut marks the 15th time the Reserve Bank of Australia has eased rates since they peaked at 18 per cent in January 1990, and is the second reduction since the prime minister Mr Paul Keating won the March general election. The lower cash rate should be passed on by financial institutions to borrowers in the corporate and household

The government bond market which had been expecting an easing in interest rates for some time, rallied on last Friday's news, although profittaking held the day's gains in check and the market closed a little higher on the day.

The vield on the 10-year benchmark government bond reached 6.9 per cent, a 20-year low. The yield on 10-year bonds has fallen during 1993, from a January 6 high of 9.12 per cent. The currency held up well, with the Australian dollar firming to a high of US\$0.6845 before moving back to

That the interest rate cut was widely expected was due mainly to the economic data released last week. The consumer price index rose 0.4 per



cent in the June quarter, giving an annual rate of 1.9 per cent. Economists say that, given the weak state of the economy, there is little risk of a surge in inflationary pressures in the next year.

Mr Fraser sald inflation

remained under control, with

the underlying rate at between

2 per cent and 3 per cent, How-

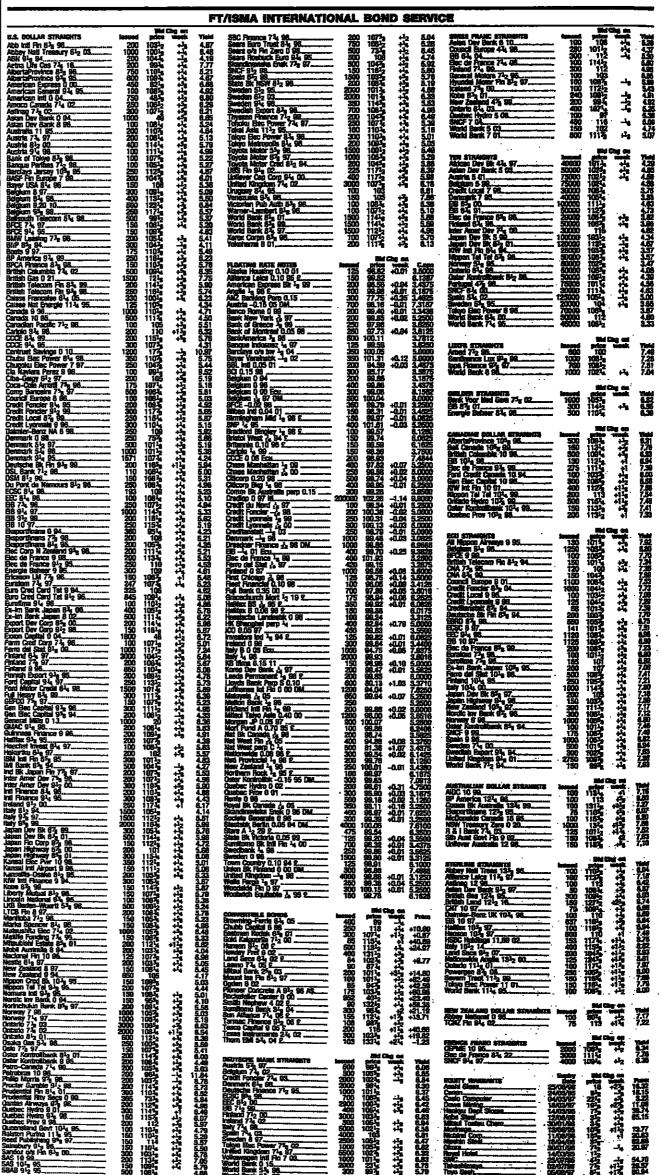
ever, with economic recovery

modest pace, he warned that "faster growth of private-sector activity was necessary to generate more jobs and reduce unemployment", currently more than 10 per cent.

"In the board's judgment, the combination of a sluggish rate of recovery, relatively high real interest rates, and low inflation warrant a further modest fall in cash rates," Mr

Fraser said. However, some economists are recommending that investors take profits at the long end of the market now, pointing out that last week's interest rate cut could be the last for some time.

"I don't see a unilateral fall in rates at these levels - long yields should now consolidate at around 6.75 per cent -7.25 per cent, and if we see US rates trending up, that would probably influence Australian rates," warned one analyst.



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ed in militaria of currency units. Wed rate for US dollars, C.conscurrent comp © The Financial Times Limited 1993. Reproduction in whole or in part in any form not permitted without written consent. Data supplied by in

CURRENCY RATES

POUND SPOT - FORWARD AGAINST THE POUND

DOLLAR SPOT - FORWARD AGAINST THE DOLLAR

EURO CURRENCY INTEREST RATES

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Statutorily Guaranteed Floating Rate Notes due 2000

For the interest period from August 2, 1993 to January 31, 1994 the Notes will carry an interest rate of 4.9% p.a. The coupon amount pertaining to each Note of Yen 100,000,000 for this period will be Yen 2,443,288 and will be payable on January 31, 1994

The Industrial Bank of Japan, Limited, Tokyo Agent Bank

FT CONFERENCES

WORLD MOTOR Frankfurt, 8 & 9 September

Timed to coincide with the Frankfurt Motor Show, this opportunities facing motor manufacturers and examine how the automotive industry is responding to the current economic climate. Speakers include: Robert Eaton. Chrysler Corporation; Tadahiro Shirai, Nissan Europe NV; Professor Dr Ulrich Seiffert, Volkswagen AG and JT Battenberg Iti, General Motors Corporation.

FINANCIAL REPORTING IN THE UK London, 27 September

This will be the third meeting the Financial Times has arranged on the ASB's proposals for changing accounting standards in the UK. The intention is to review the changes proposed in recent weeks and their impact on reported company profits and balance sheets from the point of view of all the interested parties. Keynote addresses will be given by Sir Bryan Carsberg, Member of the Accounting Standards Board and Edwin Glasgow QC, Chairman of the Financial Reporting Review Panel.

WORLD MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS

London, 28 & 29 September The Financial Times annual conference brings together leading figures from the world of mobile communications to examine the key issues facing services providers, manufacturers, users and investors. Mobile communications growth and technologies will be reviewed as well as the challenge of developing a mass market personal communications system. Speakers include: George Schmitt of Mannesmann Mobilfunk, Dennis Leibowitz of Donaldson Luftdn & Jenrette, Seth Myrby of Swedish Telecom Radio, John DeFeo of US West New Vector Group, Wolf-Achim Seidel of the German Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications and Bruno Lasserre of the French Ministry of Industy, Posts, Telecommunications & Exterior Commerce.

FT-CITY COURSE London, 4 October - 22 November

The Course, arranged with the City University Business School, is held on one afternoon a week for eight weeks. It will give those working in the City or servicing the financial sector a broad understanding of how the major financial institutions in the City of London operate.

RETAILING - NEW OPPORTUNITIES, NEW CHALLENGES London, 12 & 13 October

This topical conference will discuss international growth opportunities and new routes to market; look at ways of improving performance and profitability; and consider the importance of the customer. Speakers include: Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, Kingfisher; Arthur Martinez, Sears Roebuck and Company, Thomas Vadeboncoeur, Coca-Cola International and Dennis Eck, The Vons Companies.

INTERNATIONAL PACKAGING AND THE ENVIRONMENT

London, 18 & 19 October This conference will look at legislation and the opportunities and problems facing the packaging industry and its customers. Co-operation in the packaging chain, recycling versus incineration, and opportunities for new uses of resources will be examined. Speakers include: The Rt Hon John Gummer MP, Secretary of State for the Environment: Clemens Streeters of State for the Environment; Clemens Stroetmann from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment; Yannis Paleokrassas of the EEC, Thierry Marraud of St Gobain Group and Walter Brikmann of Coca-Cola International.

All enquiries should be addressed to: Financial Times Conference Organisation, 102-108 Clerkenwell Road, London ECIM 5SA. Tel: 071-814 9770 (24-hr answering service) Telex: 27347 FTCONF G, Fax: 071-873 3975/3969.

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ECONOMICS

Depressed indicators from Germany bring more bad publicity for Europe

THE important German US employment ures due out this week will be viewed in a subdued light after the weekend's developments in the ERM

West German unemployment is forecast to rise by 30,000, a little more than the previous month's 29,000. The outlook for employment is similarly bleak: it is expected to fall by a forther 38,000, following the June fall of 35,000.

German industrial production and manufacturing output are both expected to have been flat in June, after rises of 1.2 per cent and 1.5 per cent respectively over the previous month Manufacturing orders, predicted to fall 1 per cent, would have deteriorated even further from the May figure, which rose 3.8 per cent

Overall, another dose of depressed figures from the German economy will only add to the theorising about the future for European exchange rates which has followed in the wake of the Bundesbank's decision not to cut the discount rate at last week's council

It is a busy week for figures in the US. Observers will be especially watching the July figure for non-farm payrolls

Civilian Jabour force changes non agricultural payrolle ('000)

1991 92 93.

after last month's meagre 13,000 rise. Forecasters expect a rebound in July, with an increase of 150,000. But consid ering the measure's erratic behaviour in recent years (see graph), nothing should be taken for granted.
Other US data out this week

manufacturing payrolls, hourly earnings and the newest unemployment rate - will help to provide a more balanced view of the state of the US labour market. Unusually low employment growth has so far been a stubborn feature of the American economy's recovery. As a result, fewer economists now consider manufac

example, to be a reliable guide to the level of overall economic

The following are some of the week's other economic highlights and events. The figures in brackets are the median of economists forecasts from MMS international, a financial information company.

Today: US, July NAPM (48.5 per cent); June construction spending (up 0.5 per cent). Japan, July car sales; first 20 days of the July trade balance; July forex reserves. Korea, July trade balance. Australia, New South Wales Bank Holi-

Tomorrow: UK, July M0 (up 1 per cent on month, up 4.3 per cent on year), official reserves (up £100m). France, Franco-German meeting in Paris, rescheduled from June 25. Germany, German Bond consortium meets in Frankfurt to set the terms of a new Federal Bund issue. US, June leading indicators (up 0.3 per cent). Johnson Redbook week ended July 31. Australia, Reserve Bank of Australia monthly board meeting.

Wednesday: US, Fed releases
Tan Book for August 17 FOMC meeting; June home comple-

units); truck sales for July 21-31. Canada, July foreign reserves (up C300m).

Thursday: Spain, July official reserves (\$44.5bn). US, initial claims week ended July 31, state benefits week ended July 24, June factory goods orders (up 2.1 per cent), June factory inventories, money supply data for week ended July 26. Friday: Germany (west), July

unemployment (up 30,000); June employment (down 38,000); July vacancies (down 2,000). Germany (east), July unemployment. US, July nonfarm payrolls (up 150,000); July manufacturing payrolls (down 10,000); July hourly earnings (up 0.2 per cent); July unemployment rate (7.0 per cent); June wholesale trade: June consumer credit (up \$2.0hn) Canada, June employment (unchanged); June employment rate (11.3 per cent).

During the week: Germany, June industrial production (0.0 per cent), June manufacturing output (0.0 per cent); June manufacturing orders (down 1.0 per cent). Italy, July consumer price index (4.4 per cent). Switzerland, July federal

Stephanie Flanders

UK COMPANIES

THE WEEK AHEAD

■ TODAY COMPANY MEETINGS: ACT, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Bridge Street, Birmingham, 10.00

Cupid, Metcalf Drive, Altham, Accrington, Lancs., 10.30 BOARD MEETINGS: Finals: Ashtead Interims: Abbey National

BBA Skipton Bldg. Scty. **■ TOMORROW** COMPANY MEETINGS:

Charter Cons., Royal Westminster Hotel, 49 Buckingham Palace Road S.W., 12.00 Feedback, Winston Manor Hotel, Beacon Road. Crowborough, East Sussex Safeland, Safeland House.

Park Road, East Finchley, N., 3.30 Crawley, West Sussex, 11.00 Vibroplant, Moat House Int. Hotel, Harrogate, 1.00 **BOARD MEETINGS:** Interims:

CU Environmental Tst. Green Property

NatWest Bank Pacer Systems TR Pacific Inv. Tst. Utd. Breweries Yorkshire Chemicals

■ WEDNESDAY COMPANY MEETINGS: Ball (A.H.), 50, Stratton Street, W., 10.00 Halma, Savoy Hotel, Strand, W.C., 12.00 Northern Foods, Grange Park Hotel, Willerby, Hull, 12.30

Racal Electronics, Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savov Place, W.C., 11.45 TR Technology, 3, Finsbury Avenue, E.C., 12.30 United Inds., Barkby Road, Leicester, 10.30 **BOARD MEETINGS:** Finals: Beales Hunter

McKay Securities Interims: Chieftain **GKN** Glynwed Int. Malvern UK Index Tst.

THURSDAY

BTP, Cafe Royal, 68, Regent Street, W., 12,00 Beverley Grp., Hyde Park Hotel, 66, Knightsbridge, S.W., Bradford Property Tst.,

COMPANY MEETINGS:

Victoria Hotel, Bridge Street, Bradford, W. Yorks., 12.00 Cropper (James), Burneside Mills, Kendal, Cumbria, 10.30 Eastern Electricity,

Cambridge Corn Exchange, 3, Parsons Court, Wheeler Street, Cambridge, 11,00 GEI Int., Savoy Hotel, Strand, W.C., 12.00 Northern Electric. Northumbria Centre,

Washington, Tyne & Wear, 11.00 Ramco Oil Services, Kings College Conference Centre, Regent Walk, Aberdeen, 12,00 Shelton (Martin), Parkway

12.00 Sims Food, Sims House, Sims Food Park, Sherbourne Drive, Milton Keynes, 2.30 South Western Electricity, Plymouth Pavilions, Plymouth, BOARD MEETINGS:

Crown Eyeglass Interims: Anglo & Overseas Tst. Barciavs Bank British Alcan Aluminium Cowie (T) Jacobs (John I) Kleinwort Benson Reed Int. Rotork

Tị Grp. Transport Dev. FRIDAY **AUGUST 6 COMPANY MEETINGS:** Chubb Security, Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, W.C., 11,45

Finals: Wholesale Fittings Interims: Inv. Tst. of Guernsey Newmarket Venture Capital Porth Grp.

BOARD MEETINGS:

Company meetings are annual general meetings unless otherwise stated.

accounts are not normally available until approximately six weeks after the board meeting to approve the preliminary results.

RESULTS DUE

BOTH Royal Dutch/Shell and British Petroleum report their second quarter results on Thursday. Shell is expected to show a healthy rise in current cost net income from £516m to about £750m.

Results will have benefited from a weaker pound, stronger natural gas prices in the US, cost-cutting and solid performances from non-OECD comtries. The biggest question now hangs over the dividend payment, which will not be

announced until September 18. This time last year BP announced a dividend cut and £835m of post-tax exceptional restructuring provisions. For the latest quarter, analysis are looking for replacement post . August 81, is expected to con-

Abbey National is expected to show pre-tax profits of around £815m after bad debt provisions of some £160m when it reports its interim results today. It is expected to be hit by previsions on French operations, but show strong mortgage lending in the first

Tomorrow National Westminster is expected to show profits in the range of £280m-£350m with a strong performance anticipated from treasury and capital markets. The bank is likely to cover its interior dividend for the first time since 1989.

Midland, whose parent bank HSBC Holdings reports on net income of 1260m with a tribute pre-tax profits of dividend of 2.1p. 200m on Wednesday,

while Barclays on Thursday is expected to show recovery from losses last year to pre-tax profit of between £120m and

The interims from Reed Elsevier, the international publishing and information group on Thursday are the first combined results since the merger of Reed International and the Dutch publishers Elsevier took effect at the beginning of the year. That and a change of year end appears to have made City analysts wary of issuing firm forecasts but James Capel is looking for combined pre-tax profits of £287m compared with £247m last year.

GKN's interim results, to be announced on Wednesday, are expected to reflect at least partly the very tough times

now being experienced in the Continental motor industry. where vehicle markets have plunged by up to one third this year. But analysts don't expect too sharp a fall-off from last year's £65.1m pre-tax, thanks to a continuing effective onslaught on costs, still buoyant UK production and increasing market share for key prod-

ucts like constant velocity

The following day TI, the

ioints.

specialist engineering group, is expected to report interim profits of a little more than £60m. The market will be concentrating on the recently announced Dowty aerospace division's new venture with Messier-Bugatti of France and Dowty's overall performance in a diffi-

DIVIDEND & INTEREST PAYMENTS

TODAY Aberdeen Corp. Gas Anns. 12.5p Abtrust Pf. Inc. Inv. 2.90625p

Am. T & T \$0.33 Ameritech \$0.92 Amersham Int. 9.5p AMP 111/2% Bd. 2001 £115.0 Attwoods 1.75p BOC Grp. 11.6p Bell Atlantic \$0.67 BellSouth \$0.69 Campbell Soup \$0,25 Computer Prod. O'seas Fin 7% Cv. Sb. Bd. 1999 \$35.0

Courtaulds 10.2p Dunedin Inc. Grwth. Inv. Tst. 3½% Pf. £1.75 EFM Inc. Tst. 1.275p Fleming Merc. Inv. Tst. 1.675p Granada Cv. Pf. 3.75p HSBC 11,69% Bd. 2002 11.69p

Harris (Philip) 4.65p Kobe (City) 91/4% Gtd. 2000 \$462.50 Land Securities 9%% Cv. '04 £234.375 Lynx Hidas, 0.3p Mitsubishi Petro, 434% Bd.

Nat. Home Loans Sec. FRN 1995 \$2.11 Pacific Telesis \$0.545 Portsmouth & Sunderland News, 6.62p Quality Care Homes 1.5p Southwestern Bell \$0.3775 Thorn EMI Cap. 5%% Gtd. Rd. Cv. Pf. 04 £143.75 Tung Ho Steel 4% Bd. 2001

US West \$0.535 **■ TOMORROW** Anglo Am. Corp. of SA R2.55 BAA 9.75p Brit. Gas Int. Fin. 12% Gtd. '96 L600000.0 Cambridge Water £1.15 Cons. Bultfontein Mine

R0.0425 Cranswick 5.6p Davenport Vernon 1.5p De Beers 40% Cm. Pf. R1.0 De Beers 8% Cm. 2nd Pf. R0.04 Electronic Data Processing

Gen. Motors Accotnce Can. 13% Nts. Aug. 94 L650000.0 Monks Inv. Tst. 4.7p Shanks & McEwan 3.44p Tiger Oats 5.5% Cm. Pf. Treasury 81/2% 1994 £4.25

AUGUST 4 Borthwicks 0.7p British Syphon Inds, 62,35p CSR A\$0.12 Deelkraal Gold Mining R0.05 Driefontein Cons. R0.90 Gold Fields Coal R0.40 Hardy Oil & Gas 1p Kloof Gold Mining R0.65 LPA Inds. 1.65p Marubeni 4.6% Nts. 97

■ WEDNESDAY

■ THURSDAY AUGUST 5 Archimedes Inv. Tst. 90 Bradford Property Tst. 3p Control Techniques 2.35p Cosmos Sec. FRN Y1167945.0 Halifax Bidg. Scty. 95/8 Ln. Nts. '93 S96.25 Hicking Pentecost 2.65p

Do. Tranche B Y1167945.0

FRN Y1144110.0

AUGUST 6 Caldwell Invs. 0.3875p Cape 7.75p Chloride Grp. 6% Cm. Pf. 2.1p Cleveland Pl. 7%% Rd. Db. 88/93 £2.717808 Heavitree Browery 0.6p Do. A Lim/Vtg, 0.6p Kleinwort Charter Inv. 1.25p Pall Corp. \$0.08 Poweli Duffryn 16p Randfontein Estates R1.10 River & Merc. Am. Cap. & Inc. 1.8p RTZ 13.5p Securiguard Grp. 4.5p Southnews 1,4p

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LEGAL NOTICES

TEL 0232 529387. FAX 0232 529550

Company No. 2616707 Regressed in England and Walco-STRAILDO LIMITED

Passed 16 July 1993 At an extraordinary general meeting of the above named company duly convened and held of Oricl House, 55 Sheep Stone, Northmention, the Inthowing resolutions were present No 1 is an extraor. Junry resolution and No 2 as an ordinary resolution: 1. That it has been proved to the estisfaction of this meeting that the company carnot, by reason of its liabilities, continue its beauties and that it is advisable to wand up the same and THAT accordingly the rompany be wound up voluntarily. 2 THAT & bit Addy and A S ht Robertson, of Cork Colly, ns, 35 Sheep Street, Northampson be neby appointed joint highdways of the and are bereity appr company with nathurity to act superately in all

Dated 16 July 1993 At a meeting of creditors held on 16 July 1993 the creditors confirmed the appointment of 2 M Addy and A S in Robertson as joint

Dated toth july 1993 Pelacuman Enter prisms List
Registrated Office: 22 Rathbury Road,
London F. SHA.
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Road, Chlorocrate, Gal. 20th, Date and time of Fi
Macting of Crediens. a September 1903 of 200 pm. R
of Horting, Carls Gally Leanor House. Spa Box
Liounnies, GT 1 19.0
Signed Company No. 310613
Registered in England and Water
ResOLOVENCY ACT 1986
Resolution of

Passed 21 July 1993

At an extraordinary general meeting of the above samed company duty coverand and held at St. Andrew's Econe. 20 St. Andrew's Street. London EC4A, 3AY on 21 July 1993 the following exclusions were passed: No 1 as an extraordinary sestimation and No 2 as an ordinary resolution.

1. That is han been proved to the satisfaction of this meeting that the company cannot, by passen of its institutions, continue its business and that it is advisable to wind up the same and TilAT accordingly the company be wound up substitution.

Contraster
At a meeting of carefliors held on 21 July 1993
the gradient confirmed the appointment of J P

TEAMIFIX LIMITED

NIHALLS

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voluntarily.

2. TRAI John Feederick Powell of Colk Gelly.
Sc Andrew & House, 20 St Andrew Street, London
ECA4, 3AV be and is hereby approximal fundatory
of the company, Signed
21 July 1993
Chairman

Address of registered office: 603-605 Combook Road, (March, Estern (C) STM. Nature of Separates, Builders, Court: Migh. Number of matter: 3597 of 1992. Liquidator's Nature Negal John Halls, Address Leaner House, Syn. Road, Gloscopter, GLI 1DX, Date and time of First Memory of Creditors, & September, 1993 of 4.00 per hours. Finds of Macrilley: Cark Gully, Lannes Hause, Spa Board, Glaucester, GLI 13.D.

SDB LIMITED
In Liquidation
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in accordance
with Section 106 of the Insolvency Act 1986
fluxi meetings of the membra and creditors of
the above named company will be held at the
officus of Cost Gelly, 43 Temple Row,
Simulaghant ES SIT on Monday 4 October 1993
at 10.00 am and 10.15 am respectively for the

purposes of:

(a) having laid before them an account showing
how the winding-up has been conducted and the
company is reportery disposed of, and

(b) hearing any explanations that may be given
by the Republic.

A member or creditors entitled to attend and vote

A member or creditor entitled to strend and vote at the above meetings may appoint a privey to attend and vote lestend of this and her. A proxy need not be a member or creditor of the company. Froncies for use at either of the meetings must be lodged at 43 Temple Row, Birmingtons, 12 31T no hier than Friday 1 Consober 1993 at 4.00 µm.
Dated this 23 day of July 1993.
D1 Conney Liquidator

Notice of Appointment of Liquidates CERALDO LIMITED

Previous name: Fibrol Limited. Nature of sinces: Caylty Wall Insulators, Creditors voluntary winding up. Address of registered office: Cork Gully, Orial House, 55 Sheep Street, Morthampion NNI 2NF, Liquidatore same and address: Robin Michael Addy (Office bolder sember 1031), Amanda Sheila Mary Gully, Oriel House, 55 Sheep Street, Northempton, NN1 2NF, Date of appointment of Equidators: 16 July, 1993, Appointed by the Signed: R Addy and A Robertson

Attested: John N Whitfield ACA.

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approach to consumer marketing in China-Organised by Inchcape Marketing in association with the China-Britain Trade and Industry. For all enquiries connect Lisa Bateman at World Conference Travel on The May Fair Inter-Continental LONDON

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ing transport refor A conference examin and opportunities affecting road & tailfreight movements in Europe. Covering combined transport, road charging, railfreight privitisation, channel tunnel developments. Speakers include Roger Freeman MP, Sir Alassair Monton, Gracme Dunlop, Contact: Iain Dale, The Waterfront Partnership. Fax: 071 730 0460 Tel: 071 730 0430 MANCHESTER

OCTOBER 14 City of London Derivatives

Conference To be opened by Dr Henry Kaufman this Cityforum conference covers the markets. their regulation, maximising their benefits and controlling the risks. Central Ban and The Centre for the Study of Financial Innovation, Swiss Bank Corp, Arthur Andersen and Freshfields sponsor. Information: Marc Lee, Cityforum Lid Tel: 0225-466744 Fax: 0225-442903 LONDON

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MICAM. International Footwear Exhibition information, contact: Largo Domodossola 1, 20145 Milan,

30145 Milan, tel (39 2) 4997 L

MILAN

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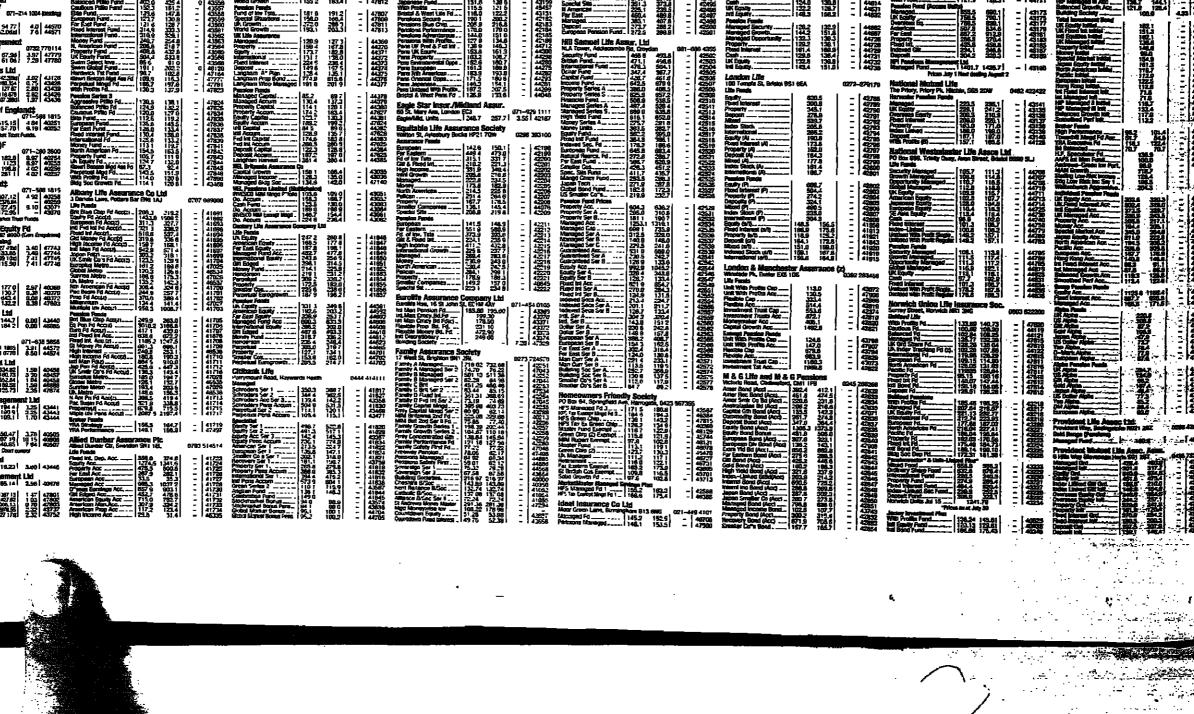
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CURRENCIES, MONEY AND CAPITAL MARKETS

FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND MONEY MARKETS Crisis continue

AFTER last Friday's unprecedented turnoil in the European exchange rate mechanism, dealers were still waiting last night to see whether the Bundeshank and the Rank of France would the Bank of France would realign the currency grid or suspend the system, writes

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M.F.

FACTO

James Blitz At the end of trading on Friday night, three currencies, the Franch and Belgian france and French and Belgian francs and the Danish krone were at, or slightly above, their floors against the D-Mark in the ERM. Both the French and German central banks had intervened heavily in support of the French franc, possibly to the tune of DM50bm.

UK clearing bank base lending rate 6 per cent from January 26, 1983

Yesterday, dealers in London were wondering how they would respond in the event of various outcomes to the crisis. In the event that the system is suspended, the French franc could come under some more selling pressure. But Mr Paul

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Sep Duc Mar	0.6531 0.6523	0,8599	0.6510	0.6522 0.6503 0.6496	Jun		450.00 451.10		449.15 450.86	
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Sep Duc Mar	1,4898 1,4842		1.4810	1.4580		خ.سېخ	94,38 94,77	94.80	94.98 94.78	95.00 94.79
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8 Aug Sep Oct 5 5.80 8.05 6.48 0.2 3.58 4.17 4.90 5.178 2.94 3.39 0.057 1.59 2.34 5.37 8.90 1.90 1.90 1.90 1.90 1.90 1.90 1.90 1	5.48 4.16 3.14 2.34 1.58 1.17 Puts 621,804	Aug St 0.58 0.8 1.24 1.3 2.20 2.8 3.54 4.1 5.35 8.0 9.53 10.3 Al currencies	2 7.38 4 2.18 7 3.16 4 4.59 1 8.27 6 8.18 8 10.19	Dec 2.48 3.29 4.56 5.98 7.56 9.36 11.32

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FT-ACTUARIES WORLD INDICES

Jointly compiled by The Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and NatWest Securities Limited in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and the Faculty of Actuaries

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL MARKETS			F	EDAY JU	LY 30 19	9 3	 -			THURSE	YAY JULY	29 1993		DOI	LAR IND	EX
Figures in perentheses show number of Ross of stock	US Doller Jedes	% chg (5) since 31/12/92	Pound Steeling lades	Yen lodes .	DM Index	Local Currency Index	Local % chg from 31/12/92	Gross Div. Yield	US Dollar Index	Pound Sterling Index	Yen Index	DM Index	Local Currency Index	1993 High	1968 Low	Year ago (approx
	140.95	+12.7	140.72	93.51	127.54	138.32	+14.3	3.63	139.77	139.40	93.83	126.04	137.59	144,19	117.39	142.
Australia (66)	155.68	+11.1	155.42	103.28	140,87	140.90	+20.0	1.38	159.49	159.07	107.07	143.82	142.98	160.59	131.16	164.6
Austria (17)	145.19	+9.0	144.95	96.31	131,37	131.22	+20.1	4.36	144.26	143.88	96.84	130.09	128.78	156.76	131.19	147.
Belgium (42)	126,43	202	126.22	83.87	114.39	117.59	+10.4	2.86	125.94	125.61	84.54	113.56	117.41	130.38	111.41	128.
Canada (108)	211.59	+13.7	211.25	140.37	191.48	195.47	+23.1	1.16	211.67	211.11	142,10	190.88	194.33	225.64	185.11	240.
Denmark (33)	99,98	43.6	99.81	66,33	90.47	125.05	+83.7	0.97	101.19	100.92	67.93	91.25	124.12	101.27	65.50	71.
Inland (23)	156.27	+6.2	158.02	103,66	141.39	145.91	+14.4	3.14	153.87	153.46	103.28	138.74	143.00	167.36	142.72	156.
France (97)	112.69	48.3	112.50	74.77	101 <i>.9</i> 7	101.97	+18.4	2.08	115.02	114.72	77. 2 2	103.72	103,72	117.10	101.59	119.
Sermany (60)		28.4	279.63	185.81	253,45	278.88	+26.6	3.40	276.42	275.69	185.56	249.27	275,23	301.61	218.82	244.
long Kong (55)	280.08	+16.9	158.54	105.35	143.69	161.84	+37.3	3.41	157.94	157.53	108.03	142.43	160,11	170.40	129.28	158.
retand (15)	158.79		69.73	45.33	63.19	84.13	+39.3	1.93	68.97	68.79	46.30	62.19	82,91	72.82	53.78	62.
new (701	69.84	+27.3		104.38	142.39	104.38	+25.9	0.80	155.51	155.11	104.40	140.25	104.40	157.34	100.75	94.
laman (470)	157.34	+49.8	157.08	232.75	317.48	346.33	+31.5	1.98	349.18	348.26	234.40	314.87	344.88	350.86	251.66	243.
Admires (ACI)	350,86	+34.2	350.29		1452.19	5471.85	-2.7	0.90	1582.33	1578.16	1082.23	1426.88	5393.38	1725.81	1410.30	1386
Resico (19)	1604.83	-26	1602.23	1064.68		150,18	+19.5	3.86	167.62	187.18	112.52	151.16	149.18	172.75	150.39	162
letherland (24)	167.80	+10.8	167.53	111.32	151.84		+20.7	4.17	54.19	54.05	38.38	48.87	52.22	55.77	40.56	46
lether(and (24)	55.77	+30.0	55.57	37.00	50,48	53.49	+25.0	1.63	157.21	156.80	105.54	141.77	158.23	166.21	137.71	169
	159.48	+15.8	159.23	105,80	144.32	161.85				250.19	168.40	226.21	186.64	262.72		
lorway (22)	250.07	+17.2	249.67	165.90	226.28	185.40	+15.6	1.86	250.85						207.04	209.
Ingapore (35)		+45.4	214,94	142.82	194.81	211.28	+34.4	2,43	209.58	209.02	140.69	188.98	205.90	215. 29	144.72	205.
COUNTY AND COUNTY OF THE PARTY	215.29	-02	116.14	77.18	105.26	127.70	+26.2	4.58	117.85	117.54	79.11	106.27	127.04	132.82	115.23	139.
pain (44)	716.33	+4.1	172.14	114,39	158.03	210.48	+21.4	1.60	170.19	169.74	114.25	153.47	207.60	184.06	149.70	189.
Leeder (36)	172.42		126.97	84.37	115.09	120.04	+16.9	1,81	127.14	126.80	85.35	114.66	120.16	129.36	108.91	112.
edizerland (50)	127.18	+125	176.60	117.34	160.05	176.60	+4.6	3.93	176.37	175.91	118.39	159.03	175.91	181.99	162.00	182
Inited Kingdom (218)	176.89	+26		121.60	165.86	183.28	+2.9	2.79	184,16	183.67	123.63	166.07	184,16	186,27	175.38	172.
SA (520)	183.28	+29	182.99	121300	100.00											
	7	.00	145.04	96.38	131.48	141,46	+13.3	3.15	145.10	144.72	97.41	1 30 .85	140.84	149.02	133.92	147.
prope (761)	145.27	488	163.56	108.69	148.25	174.12	+25.2	1.42	162.69	162.26	109.21	146.71	172.12	171.77	142,13	176.
lordic (114)	163.83	+10.5		106.34	145.05	110.85	+25.4	1.08	158,47	158.06	106.39	142.91	110.76	160.30	105.89	101.
ecific Basin (714)	160,30	+48.1	160.04	102.17	139.36	123,65	+20.1	1.87	152.87	152,47	102.61	137.84	123.58	154.05	117.26	120.
uro-Pacific (1485)	154.01	+28.0	153.76		162.67	178.81	+3.2	2.79	180.53	180.06	121,21	162.63	179.62	182.38	171.51	169.
	179,74	+3.2	179.45	119.26		121.01	+19.7	2.62	125.67	125.33	84.38	113,34	120.45	128.65	112.51	125.
	125.67	+8.9	125.47	83.39	113.74					187.80	126.42	169.81				
urope Ex. UK (533)	190.10	+22,1	189.79	128.13	172.03	175.68	+21,8	3,15	188,29				174.21	194.08	152.70	167.
acific Ex. Japan (244)		27.3	154.38	102.58	139.91	125.75	+19.8	1.90	153.42	153.02	103.00	138.35	125.41	154.61	118.51	122.
Varid Ex. US (1652)	154.61	+18.6	181,59	107.38	146.47	140.27	+13.6	2.06	161.36	160.93	108.83	145.52	140.35	161.85	134,22	133.
Mortel Ex. UK (1854)	161.85		162.67	108.10	147.45	143.05	+12.5	2.23	162.48	162.65	109.08	146.53	143.10	162,94	137.29	137.
Vorte Ez. So. Al. (2112)	162.94	+16.7	168.10	111.71	152.38	165.32	+7.8	2.91	168,55	168.10	113.16	152.01	165.33	170.05	157,47	162
World Ex. Japan (1702)	168.36	+5,8	100.10			440.00	-46.7	0.00	162.70	162.27	-40.00	4 46 70	4 40 00	400.00		
MAIN EN AMERICA (1)	163.20	+16.9	182.93	108.27	147.66	143.62	+127	2.23	102.70	10221	109.23	146.73	143.63	163.20	137.32	138.

The World Index (2172)	102 20 41	A.9 152.93	108.27	147.66	143.02	+12.1		102.70	102,21	109.23	140.73	143,53	103.20	137,352	138.21
The World Index (2172)	. 100; Finlan	G. Dec 31' 1	The R	ancial Ti	nes Limi	ted, Gok	iman, S	achs & C	20. and P	latWest S	ecurities	Limited.	1987		
14.45 (Pound Starting) and	12322 (10		os Name	changes	; Pittstor	to Pitts	on Şervi	ices Grou	p (USA)	and Pull Li	d. to Tas	men Prop	perties Lic	i. (New Z	ealand).

PO	JND SPOT	- FORWAL	RD AGAIN	ST 1	HE POUN	ID_					.ONI	DON RECENT	ISS	JES	;
1 30	Day's Spread	Close	Que monte	P.E.	Three months	0.2	EQ	וודונ	ES						
i	1,4750 - 1,4855 1,8955 - 1,9090 2,8930 - 2,9175	1,4845 - 1,4855 1,9045 - 1,9065 2,9075 - 2,9175	0.35-0.33cpm 0.36-0.30cpm 1 ₂ -1 ₄ cds	2.75 2.08 -0.77	0.98-0.95pm 0.88-0.76pm	2,60 1,70 -0.69	istos Price	Amina Pald	Latest Record	15	83	Strick	Closing	+OT	٢
M	53.60 - 54.55 18.0180 - 10.0925	54.35 - 54.45	N/A	NA NA	3 ₂ -S _E CES NVA NVA	N/A N/A		up	Date	High	عوا]	Price	-	l
iny	1.0915 - 1.0780 2.5595 - 2.500 251.30 - 357.00 201.45 - 215.85 2513.80 - 2471.90 10.9610 - 11.0959 12.1780 - 12.900 194.16 - 157.30 18.07 - 18.20 2.2505 - 2.2580 1.3250 - 1.3520	1,075 - 1,0745 2,5825 - 2,5273 396,00 - 287,00 216,10 - 215,40 2294,77 - 2396,75 11,0529 - 11,0830 8,5550 - 3,5450 12,4400 - 12,530 16,25 - 1,5123 18,15 - 72,18 2,2659 - 2,2650 1,3610 - 1,3820	0.03-0.08cds 1-2-pricks 180-182-ds NAA 2-11-pricks 842-2-1-pricks 1-2-pricks	-0.50 -1.45 -7.70 -7.70 -7.70 -0.69 -2.41 -0.50 -0.55 -0.55	1.12-0.1850 5-7-765 400-485ds MA 11-23-64 11-37-75ds 11-100 21-4-64 0.88-7-75ds 21-1-75ds 1-1-75ds 1-1-75ds	-0.56 -1.16 -6.56 NAA -0.85 NAA -0.85 NAA -0.20 2.73 -0.76 1.11 -2.08	1150 120 100 225 - 170 100 - - 110			1784: 1877 1871 1871 1872 1873 1874 1874 1874 1874 1874 1874 1874 1874	150 131 19 184 7 191 94 36 97 36 113 276 201	British Telecton (PiPaid) Bashness Poet Cests lent Court Covendish Crossin Werends Devo Init Danadin Japas Ny Do Warrants Emples Inv Tres Eminates	101 191 7 195 94 48 99 45	19 5 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	
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30	Day's spread	Close	Cas month	% 98.	menigne junee	β <u>π</u>	100	F.P.	-	61 104	55 837	Perpetual Japan Inv		.2	
F	1,4750 - 1,4865 1,3765 - 1,3685	1.4845 • 1.4855 1.3820 • 1.5830	0.35-0.33epm 0.41-0.38epm	275 343	0.98-0.95pm 1.15-1.10pm	260 325	130 130		- [148	140	Do Werrants	49 145	*1	

RIGHTS OFFERS

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BANK OF ENGLAND TREASURY BILL TENDER

WEEKLY CHANGE IN WORLD INTEREST RATES

BASE LENDING RATES

●Robert Fleming & Co 6

Habib Bank AG Zurich ...6

Hongkong & Shanghal., 6 Jufan Hodge Bank 6 ØLeopold Joseph & Sons 6

Meghral Bank Ltd 6 McDornel Douglas Bk. 6

C. Hoare & Co ...

Unchris -0.0422 Unchris Unchris

B & C Merchant Bank 13

Bank of Scotland

Brown Shipley CL Bank Nederland Ctibank NA

Cateanis NA 6 City Merchants Bank 6 Citydesdale Bank 6 The Co-operative Bank 6

27/8 6/8 25/6 25/8 3/9 8/9 23/8 8/9 9/8 16/8

Arricum Paid 49 Renunc Date

DOL	AR SPOT	- FORWAI	RD AQAIN	ST 1	HE DOLL	AR
Jul 30	Day's apreed	Close	One month	% 24.	Three Districts	ρ <u>π</u>
Harvey France France Sweden Japen Austria Switzerland Eart Conspecsion	7.425 - 7.476) 5.9855 - 5.980 6.2765 - 8.2780 104.20 - 105.85 12.2250 - 12.2775 1.5780 - 1.5710 1.0875 - 1.1140	1.4845 - 1.4855 1.3850 - 1.2850 1.2840 - 1.2850 1.38,00 - 38,70 6.7901 - 8.7850 1.7400 - 8.7850 1.7400 - 1.7410 179,05 - 179,75 144,85 - 144,95 161,275 - 1613,25 161,275 - 1613,25 161,275 - 1613,25 104,00 - 3.9590 1.2250 - 1.5230 1.2250 -	9.00-8.70(made 1.00-2.100made 1.00-2.100made 1.00-2.100made 1.00-2.100made 1.00-2.100made 0.21-0.34cds 0.27-0.55cpm	2.75 3.43 -0.63 -0	0.88-0.85pm 1.15-1.10pm 1.25-0.37du 1.55-1.50du 1.55-1.50du 380-420du 8.00 8.00-8.00du 6.00du 6	2355021 MARIE 120 MARIE 12

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_	0.673 0.3673 0.462 0.442 0.442 0.448 0.525 1.838 0.464 0.734	1.485 1 0.574 9.531 1.880 0.867 0.510 0.780 0.780 1.090 French	2.585 1.741 1 16.69 2.924 1.144 0.887 1.979 1.375 1.201 1.898	155.8 104.9 80.27 176.2 88.94 53.48 85.05 81.74 238.4 72.36 114.4	8.840 5.963 3.420 58.74 10. 3.912 3.035 3.691 4.840 18.25 4.106 6.490	2.280 1.522 0.874 14.57 1 0.778 0.944 1.184 4.154 1.050 1.858	2.913 1.962 1.1270 12.205 1 2.206 1 2.216 1.216 1.525 5.355 5.353 2.138	2395. 1613 928.5 16372 2709 1060 822.2 1000. 1257 4403 1112 1758 per 1000	1.905 1.283 0.737 12.23 2.185 0.864 0.795 1 3.502 0.885 1.369	54.40 36.63 21.04 348.2 61.54 61.54 124.07 18.67 22.71 28.56 100. 25.27 39.94 per 100	215.3 145.0 83.29 1382, 243.5 95.27 73.81 89.90 118.0 396.8 100, 158.1	1.36 0.917 0.527 8.747 1.541 0.802 0.468 0.516 0.516 2.504 0.833
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M 30	Short	7 Days	One	Three	Str	One
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C'aunt acesi	set. Start term		US Dollar and	bas const proz à	Minera, bayo dispo	NOTICE.

		3 months				US Dollars	
	32	offer	3,5	bid	35	after	312
Bóng i	stee are th	arktypetic r	DOUGH FORM	ed to the n	restest one-	shateentit, of	the bid as
ed sate The be	e for \$10m nice are Not	quoted to the local Westmin	musicat by S cather Bank, S	ed to the reference to	nearest one- ce banks at ovo. Deutaci	sixteentin, of 17.00 p.m. e ne Bank, Bank	the bid an ach worldn
ed rate The be	e for \$10m nice are Not	arktemetic r quoted to the local Weston lawarky Trus	musicat by S cather Bank, S	ed to the reterent Stank of Tol	nearest one- ce banks at kyo, Dautaci	sbasentin, ot 17.00 s.m. e ne Bank, Ban	the bid ach wor que Nati

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.td 30	Overnight	Cost Month	Two Months	Three Months	Six Months	Lombard Intervention
canidart paris par	8.90-7.10 873-1178 474-5 374-32 978-1078	9.4-10.0 45-43- 913-912		814-814 476-473 812-858		7.75 6.75 - - -

LONDON MONEY RATES							
74i 30	Overnight	7 days notice	One Month	Three Months	Şiz Monifis	One Year	
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a Authority Bonds	344		Of 8	34	969	2-8	
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nce House Deposits		l – ,	R	57	- EL	5분	
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encry BEs just; one-or-or o (will; one-month 5(3) sount 5.0618 p.e. ECS is for period Aug 25, 1 / 1, 1993 to July 30	per cent; the	ree months : Stadion For	515 per cent;	Treasury Bill Make up de	ls: Average t	ender rete (XXI - Armin	

5556 5556 - 22447676	554 551 551 551 551 551 551 551 551 551	FT-SE Ear FT Ordina FT Govern FT Road is FT Gold is
11, 30 year Edecesco (1 Finance 1 August 1	er cant; Bank; ander rate of 392 . Agreed se tur period Houses seven , 1983:Sank set £100,000 p.c.; sbr-sine 303 . Decombs	"Shorts" (Liv Funding Spc 1 Trees 13-lape 81-apc 1989 Bach 131-apc 1 Trees, 10bc L Exch 121-apc 1 Trees 8pc 165

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sary Billia (self); cons-month SS ₂ per cent; three shortins SA, per cent; els months SA, per cent; the months SA, per cent; the months SA, per cent; Treasury Billis; Asernge tender rate of unit 5.0818 p.c. 2000 Fload Rate Starting Expirit Phonos. Main up day July 30, 1993. Agreed for particle Aug 25, 1993 to Sep 25, 1993 Schemes 6 & 8, 720 p.c. Retirence rate to particle 1, 1993 to July 30, 1993, Schemes Rate Sa, 1993, Schemes Sa, 1993, Schem										

	30	29	25	27	26	23	High	Low	High	Low
FT-SE 100	2926.5	2917.5	2884.2	2879.4	2844.2	2827.7	2957.3	2737.6	2957.3	966 9
FT-SE Mid 250	3306.5	3273.0	3244.8	3238.7	3215.2	3202.9	3308.5	2876.3	3306.5	1379.4
FT-SE-A 360	1464.0	1457.2	1441.5	1439.0	1423.0	1415.4	1464.0	1348.7	1464.0	664 5
T-A All-Share	1448.78	1441.90	1426.88	1424.54	1409.55	1402.39	1448.78	1086.13	1448.78	61.92
T-SE Eurotrack 100	1253.91	1242.42	1238.35	1238 95	1240.21	1224.42	1253.91	1083.02	1253.91	900.45
T-SE Eurotrack 200	1343.59	1308.99	1297.56	1297.42	1294.91	1279.96	1343.59	1144.79	1343.59	838.62
T Ordinary	2317.6	2307.8	2277.7	2277.3	2254.2	2234.6	2317.6	2124.7	2317.6	49,4
T Government Secs.	99.17	98.57	98.47	97.94	98.16	97,98	99.17	93,28	127.40	49.18
T Fixed Interest	118,73	118.13	117.81	117,34	117.20	117.02	118.73	108.67	118.73	50.53
T Gold Mines	249.2	235.8	229.8	225.5	214.9	218.4	249.2	60.0	734.7	43.5
			LONDON	SHAR	E SERVI	CE				
		_								
British Funds		R	RITISH FUNDS	- Cont.			BRITISH FUND	S - Cont.		
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Shorts" (Lives up to Five Years)		8	pc 2003‡‡	10433 1.4	4,150 Je10 De10		index-Linkad	•		
unding 6pc 1993## 100	800 Mr15 Se15		pc 2003 A#	1043 1.2	3,250 Ja10 (2010		(b) Trees, 20c '941(1024			
1021 ₂ 1	1,065 My23 My23		Opc 2003	11743 1.3	2,503 Mr8 Se8	1.2 1281	Trees. 20c '94(102) 20c '98‡(87) 4*spc '98‡(135)	9 1341 0.2 9 1981 0.4 9 1094 0.5	: 500 kv16 kly16 1,200 kly16 Sa16	13.4 5070 8.2 1373
4.T - 444 - 11	2,100 Au3 Fe3 650 Se1 Men		es 11 ¹ 20¢ 2001–4 nding 3 ¹ 20¢ 39–4	12243 1.3 7843 1.8	1,620 Se19 Mr19 543 Ja14 Jv14	10.2 1290 7.8 1274	4 nc 9811 1735	1086 05	800 Ac23 0c23	723 -
14-206 1994;	1,100 Oc27 Ac27	22-3 1267	rversion 9 ¹ 2PC 2004	1144 1.3	3.412 Ap25 0c25	19.3 1248	21200 101	an 167%, 0.3	1,360 Mr24 Se24	15.2 1316
rees, 100c Ln. 199411 10333 0.1	1,800 De9 Je9	4.5 1284 °C	1-10c 2005	1143 13	4,842 Oc18 A018	123 1247	2 ³ pc 103	1645 0.5	1,050 Hv20 My20	13.4 1317
nch 1212pc 1994 107 5.0 0.1	1,240 Fe22 Au22	16.7 1203 Tre	43 121xac 2003-5	1143 1.3 1325 1.2	2,200 My21 My21	14.4 1295	47epc 104##	1124 0.7 1724 0.7	600 Ap21 0c21	15.3 - 14.6 1314
1200 1995	1,900 My17 Hy17 2,350 Jy25 Jy25	1341345 7	4oc 2006##	100½ 1.4	3,000 Mr8 568	-	21200 109	9 158 5 0.9	1,550 kv30 kv20	13.4 1318
12pc 1995 1097 0.4 nch 3pc San 90-95 963	214 NV1 NV1		pc 2002-611	10233 1.1	2,000 Ap5 (k5	1.3 1334	2 ¹ apc 11	si162-∖asi 0.9	1,550 Fe22 An23	10 7 1310
104:00:1995	2.500 Je21 Je21	14.5 1254 LIB	88 113 spc 2003-7 88 83 ppc 2007 ##	128 A 1.1	3,160 Jy22 Ju22 5,497 Ja18 Jy18	15.6 1293 8.6 1339	2 ¹ 2 pc '73	2 134m 1.1	1,950 Fe16 Au16	12.7 1320
mas 124 pc 1995## 1144 0.5	840 My15 Nv15		3120C 104-6	1403 12	1.250 Se26 Mr26	17.2 1301	21200 '16	157, 13	2,200 ±25 Jy25 1,700 Oct6 Ab16	12.7 1320 21.6 1321 10.3 1322
1490 1996 1187 0.6 157400 1996## 1228 0.5	776 Jy22 Jy22 1,150 Rb/3 Mays	15.6 1305 1 29.3 1309		14022 144	1,000 000 11-0		21-00 24±± 1697.7	1145 1.6	1.500 Ja17.Jv17	10.6 1323
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134 pc 1997## 120% 0.8	1,290 Jy22 Ju22 3,700 Au21 Fe21	16.6 1302					morans phor to essue) RPI to January 1967.	Commercian for	acquisted to repect	recossing or
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Tupe 1998## 102}} 0.9	2,950 Me30 Se30	22.2 현	pc 2009	102,3 1.4 111,4 1.4	2,500 Mr25 S=25 4,273 Ja12 Jv12	16.2 1336 7.6 1245		_		
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tes 91 ₂ pc 1996 111 1.1 121 1.1 121 1.1 121 1.1 123 1.1	1,900 Jy15 Ja15 3,050 Se26 My26	8.6 1347 17.2 1264 Und	lated				kanchester 11 ½ oc 2007.	. 1234, 1.6	7 An25 Oc25	30.3 3275
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STOCK INDICES
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FT-ISMA INTERNATIONAL BOND SERVICE

THE FT-ISMA International Bond Service, published on Monday to Friday in the inancial Times, shows daily prices, provided by the

International Securities Market Association, for a ection of the most active traded Eurobonds and ated securities, picked from the sectors which best resent current market conditions.

The service sets out to nclude certain "benchmark issues within the space vallable, while still trying to maintain a broad spread of borrowers and currency

groups. Selections are revie regularly by the Financial irries and the International Securities Market

The United Mexican States Floating Rate

Privatization Notes Due 2001

The applicable rate of interest for the period August 2, 1993, through and including October 31, 1993, to be paid on November 1, 1993, a period of 91 days, is 4.125%. This rate is 13/16% above the offered rate for three-month deposits in U.S. Dollars which appeared on the display designated as the British Bankers Association's Interest Settlement Rate (3.3125%) as quoted on the Dow Jones/Telerate Monitor as Telerate Screen No. 3750 as at 11:00 A.M. (London Time) on July 29, 1993.

The above rate equates to an interest payment of USD 10.42708 per USD 1,000.00 in principal amount of Notes.



Banco Nacional de Mexico, NY

July 29, 1993

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Bank Accounts

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Save & Prosper/Robert Flaming
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Cause of southern discomfort

Umberto Bossi, leader of Italy's Lombard League, speaks to Robert Graham

unctuality, wrote Oscar Wilde, is the thief of time. Mr Umberto Bossi. leader of Italy's populist Lombard League, seems to have taken this dictum to heart. In a country where punctuality is usually honoured in the breach, Mr Bossi

is supremely unpunctual.

Does this reflect his belief that he can set his own agenda or does he become so deeply involved in issues and people that he loses track of

It is probably a mix of both. His aides despair of trying to organise his schedule; but they are fiercely loval, attracted by his energy and boundless confidence in his self-appointed mission to change Italy.

As the interview begins -

one and a half hours late - he tosses a police summons contemptuously into the waste paper basket. Hasn't he been warned that he faces prosecution for insulting the head of state, President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro. "I don't care," he

Mr Bossi can afford to be cavalier. He is the sole genuinely new leader to emerge in Italy at a crucial moment of political transition; and, unlike the discredited political class whose hegemony he is challenging, he owes favours to nobody. The League, founded in 1984 as a regional autonomy movement for Lombardy, is virtually his invention.

"First we set out to conquer the north ... and look where we are now," he says in his gravelly voice. "Then we take over the south, and finally we march on Rome - like Gari-baldi. It will be difficult; but we have begun to work on the south.

This may seem wishful thinking. But in the space of three years, the 51-year-old politician from Varese has propelled the League from an obscure regional grouping to a party that controls 40 per cent of the vote in the rich northern industrial belt of Italy. The Lombard League itself has spawned federations in neighbouring Piedmont, the Veneto, Liguria and Emilia

Romagna. The League now controls the administrations of a string of northern towns, including Milan, the capital, It has 80 seats in parliament, and Mr Bossi himself at the April 1992

239,000 votes - more than any

other deputy. "We are not separatists but federalists." he says. In the past six months. Mr Bossi bas toned down his talk of separatism. But when separatist language does slip into public speeches this is Mr Bossi talking from the heart.

A hard core of League supporters embraces the idea of separatism. But Mr Bossi knows that the "honest voters' he needs to swell his ranks want to hear a more sober message touching on practical concerns of the day.

"The north is against cen-tralised control of the state, against statism," he says. "We strongly support privatisation. Here in the north people work hard, they produce things; there are thousands of smalland medium-sized industries. This is one of the most advanced regions of Europe. Our development cannot be held back by paying taxes to support the south.

We are not anti-south; but we are against the way the south has been enslaved by the Christian Democrats and allowed to live off state hand-

In other words, national resources have to be better and more fairly used. At a time of serious recession, the north wants to see more of its tax money ploughed back into job creation and infrastructure in the region. If not, Mr Bossi raises the threat of separatism, but less stridently now than a

Mr Bossi has learned fast to be a national figure and has tempered his crude vocabulary and use of Lumbard dialect. Yet his conversation is still peppered with hyperbole and dogmatic assertion about the inevitable collapse of a corrupt ancien regime.

"The system is imploding under its own weight....The roof of the building has been falling in the walls are crumbling. We have 4.5m people receiving fake disability pensions. We have allowed the national debt to pile up without cover. It can't go on." In one of his many brushes

with the establishment. Mr Bossi encouraged his supporters not to buy treasury bills. But he now back-tracks, a recognition of the fact that his vote is made up of small traders and businessmen, worried savers and pensioners - just the kind of people who put



university and League litera-

ture draws a discreet veil over

his career until entering poli-

tics in 1979. "Over the next

decade I drove more than 1.3m

kilometres. I never stopped." It

is no wonder that two years

ago he had mild heart trouble

with doctors ordering him to

His success has been based

on his own political nose and

his homegrown way of putting

across simple ideas to an elec-

torate used to intrigue and cor-

in ideology as such. We do not

say there will be an earthly

paradise (like the marxists) or

that people are all good (like

the Catholic parties). We recog-

nise that people want to see a

little more money in their

pockets, live in a more modern

state: a state that functions

better and where the rule of

law is observed."

The League does not believe

rupt political masters.

reduce his heavy smoking.

We are not separatists but federalists

their savings in low taxed trea-

sury bills.
"I didn't actually tell people not to buy treasury bills. I was saying that people here do not want to see their savings going towards propping up the regime's wasteful spending: nublic horrowing should go towards supporting productive investment. And if it doesn't do this voters should draw their own conclusions."

The same view applies to his controversial threat to institute a campaign of non-payment of taxes. This touches all

PERSONAL FILE

1941 Born in Cassano Magnago, near Varese. 1968 Drops out of Pavia university medical degree. 1982 Founds Lombard Auton-

omy League. Lombard League formalised, becomes leader. 1987 Elected senator.

1989 Elected leader of Federation of North League movements.

the right visceral chords of his League supporters. "When Rome is run by a bunch of robbers how can you expect people in the north to pay

Significantly, with Mr Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, former governor of the Bank of Italy, now prime minister and a man long seen as guarantor of the small saver, Mr Bossi is less strident on this issue.

However he has not mellowed his tone or changed his stance in his opposition to corrupt local administration and national government. "Only the League and the magistrates [investigating the corruption scandals of illicit party

financing] have responded to his medical degree at Pavia the will for change. Together they are filling the political

The League has been the main political beneficiary of the magistrates' investigations that are laying bare the depths of the traditional parties' corruption. Not surprisingly Mr Bossi opposes any curb on the magistrates' powers. "The magistrates cannot be stopped. The revolution must be allowed to go on until it loses its own momentum.

"Fresh elections are the only means of ending *Tagentopoli* (the corruption scandals). We must go to the polls as soon as possible." The present legislature, with one in six parliamentarians under investigation, has no legitimacy, he Despite having been vocifer-

ous in demanding elections this autumn, he is now less dogmatic. "The longer we are kept waiting, the more our support grows," he says. The sooner elections are held, the less time his opponents will bave to recover their disarray and form new alliances.

Mr Bossi is disdainful of alliances. Most of the time, all the political parties - of every col our - are ranged against the League. "We don't mind: people can see the rest are intent on holding up change."

Such determination to go it alone is perhaps rooted in his tough origins. League literature describes him as the son of a "Catholic worker" father and a mother of "small-holder origins". His origins are similar to many of his generation: the first to enjoy higher education and benefit from industrial modernisation in the north.

Mr Bossi failed to complete

Adult European partner wanted

essential test of European monetary co-operation and will determine the fate of European Monetary Union.

Few European politicians of stature have questioned these propositions in the currency turmoil of the past nine months. Still fewer have que-ried the assumptions behind

Now, in the moment of supreme crisis, many are pre-dicting the collapse of the Exchange Rate Mechanism, with dire consequences for European political and economic integration.

A paper on US-European Community relations by the Carnegie Endowment Institute for International Peace offers a more balanced picture of the EC's future. Whatever the disadvantages of distance from daily events, the authors have produced constructive propos als which are a welcome change from "all-or-nothing" mentality gripping many European policy-makers.

Mr Robert Zoellick, a former aide to Mr James Baker while he was US secretary of state, chaired the study. His premise is Americans should not magnify the EC's problems, but should instead pursue America's "strategic interest" in having an outward-looking, internationalist EC as an adult partner on the world stage.
Mr Zoellick writes: "The

emergence of new economic and political obstacles should not be misperceived as a European rejection of the fundamental commitment to overcoming a destructive legacy through closer integration. European integration will proceed - albeit in fits and starts - although its exact course is

still an open question." The study's main proposal is the creation of a "transatlantic single market". That sounds like a cute re-working of European Commission President Jacques Delors' 1992 project to create a single European market covering the free movement of goods, services, capital and people. But the group is

more intent on drawing up new rules to defuse trade rival-ries and head off the subsidy wars which currently plague the agricultural, textile and steel industries.

Other ideas include a protocol on foreign investment, reaf-firming "national treatment" for European and US firms operating in their respective foreign markets: closer co-operation on industrial and environmental policies; and new rules providing for more

predictable tax policy. The implicit message in the paper is that Clinton should take a more activist approach to the EC's development. No historical parallels are perfect, but Mr Zoellick's inspiration may well be the Truman

Many Americans find the European attachment to the ERM and convergence criteria baffling

administration's policy of encouraging European integra-tion after World War IL By any measure, it was a success, leading to a liberal order built around the Gatt-Bretton Woods trading system. The cold war's end has

raised questions about the future of the old order. Mr Zoellick wants Clinton to shape the new by strengthening existing institutions, of which the EC is one of the

There is, however, a sting in the tail. Mr Zoellick says the US should be "increasingly discriminate about the content, form and resulting outlook of the EC"; he suggests the US Treasury be involved in unfolding European Monetary Union, "if [the US] wants to avoid

unpleasant surprises". Some in Brussels will complain this is a demand for a "13th seat" at the EC table. The US commerce department tried a similar ruse early in the Bush administration, but were shown the door. Mr Zoellick's for the EC in international councils such as the Group of Seven industrialised nation will not dispel the impression the US wants to slip a Trojan horse into Europe.

serb* gue advanc From Brussels's vantage, the most refreshing aspect of the paper is that it takes European aspirations for closer integra-tion seriously. This should believe the US is part of an Anglo-Saxon plot to sabotage EMU, a notion which gained currency in the second battle for the franc last February.

Yet it remains true that many Americans find the Enropean attachment to the Rychange Rate Mechanism and the convergence criteria on inflation, budget deficits and government debt baffling. They find it incomprehensible that Europeans are willing to suffer high unemployment for the questionable prize of fixed exchange rates.

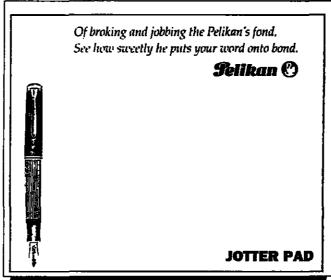
This was the mes last week's call by six leading Institute of Technology for France to lead the way in the ahandonment of the ERM. The Six Wise Men argued in the FT that Europe is repeating the mistake of the 1980s, when countries tried to hang on to the gold standard at any price.

The response in Brussels is unchanged. Mr Delors has argued that maintaining franc-D-Mark parity aims to coold the mistakes of the 1930s, when Europe fell victim to competitive devaluations. The last 12 months have

shown that the franc-mark parity is less about economics and mere about politics. It may be the men from MIT have overestimated the Bundesbank's power to set the EC's political course. Final judgment will rest on the response in Paris

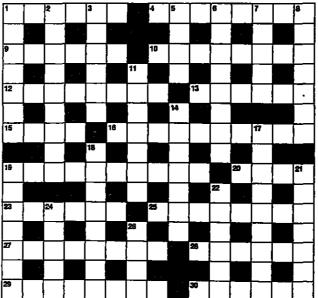
Lionel Barber

Agenda for US-EC Relations, national Peace, 2400 N Street NW. Washington DC 20037



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17 Stacks fruit vehicles (9)
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The solution to last Saturday's prize puzzle will be published with names of winners on Saturday August 14.

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Return of the pessimists

Te don't hear so much nowadays World After the fall of the Berlin Wall, you could hardly turn a page without stumbling over some novel prescription for perfect peace. If it was not The End of History, it was the model of the Solitary Superpower. And if it was not collective security in a pan-European confederation, it was the coming-of-age of the UN and emerging world government.

The utopians have mostly fallen silent now, because their recipes have curdled. Whatever Francis Fukuyama thought he meant. History continues to plague us in all of its familiar dimensions; and however glad we may be to see the back of the Old Order, the new world is characterised by a degree of disorder which far exceeds the capacity of our existing institutions to contain it.

At the time, the Gulf war was a heartening exploit of UN solidarity and American military leadership; with hind-sight, it does not look so good. Only six months ago, the second Start agreement seemed a historic move to put the genie of nuclear holocaust back in the bottle; today it is re-emerging in Ukraine, Pakistan, North Korea and even, conceivably, Japan. And then there is Bosnia; even an agreement in Geneva would only mark a new phase of that particular

Pessimists always expected things to go wrong, and policy analysts always emphasise the down-side. Otherwise they have nothing to sell. Sconer or later, one of the pessimistic policy analysts was bound to



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come along with a counter-theory, to explain why things will he just as had as before, but for different reasons. Samuel Huntington is professor of the Science of Govern-ment at Harvard. And his the-

ory is that global politics will in future be dominated by the clash of civilisations. "The fault lines between civilisations," he says, "will be the battle lines of the future."* That, is just the kind of sentence you would expect from a pessimistic policy-analyst. Mr Huntington identifies

seven or eight large civilisa-tions: Western, Confucian, Jape, Islamic, Hindu, Slavic-Orthodox, Latin American and possibly African. And he sug-gests that the deep-seated differences between these civilisations may also become battle lines in future. The world is getting more crowded: so people fall back on kith and kin. Economic modernisation weakens the nation state, so religion moves in to fill the gap. But economic modernisation also builds up regional economic integration. Finally, the power of the West, now at an all-time peak, provokes the other civilisations to return to their cul-

Central to the Huntington hypothesis is the idea that these civilisations will be not just distinct but antagonistic. And the future, according to Mr Huntington, will be defined by relations between the West and the Rest. These relations will be essentially conflictual, because there cannot be a world civilisation of universal values transcending cultural differences. "Western ideas of individualism, liberalism, constitutionalism, human rights, equality, liberty, the rule of law, democracy, free markets," he says, "often have little resonance in Islamic. Confucian. Japanese, Hindu, Buddhist or Orthodox cultures." In particular, there is a deep-seated

antagonism over political and human rights values. The West is now "at an extraordinary peak of power", according to Mr Huntington. As a result, the strategic pos-tures of other civilisations will be defined by their attitudes to the West: and they have three broad options. They can choose isolation, like Burma and North Korea; they can try to join the West, like Mexico; or they can modernise while seek ing allies against the West, like the countries of South East Asia. But the most likely prospect, according to Huntington, will be conflict between the West and several Islamic-Con-

To meet this threat, the West needs to promote greater solidarity within its own civilisation, especially between Europe and North America; to co-opt related cultures in Eastern Europe and Latin America; and Japan. It must also maintain its economic and military

power to protect its interests. The problem with the Hun-tington thesis, is that he does not provide convincing arguments for expecting the age-old antagonisms between civilisations to get much worse in future. The rise of fundamentalism in India and the world of Islam, or the growth of regional trading arrangements around the world, do not seem adequate reasons. On the other hand, there is

one development which could

easily cause antagonism

between civilisations to degenerate into conflict, and that would be a serious shift in power relationships between them. Mr Huntington asserts the West is at a peak of its power, as if this were a peak on which it could expect to remain. But it is more likely that Western power is really at high water-mark, shortly before the tide starts to ebb. Fifty years ago, the US totally dominated the world economy. It is now rivalled by Europe and Japan. In a genera-tion it could be challenged by China. Europe is a partner in the Western civilisation. Japan professes an uneasy associate membership of the West. But China will always be another civilisation. For hundreds of years the West has dominated the world economy, because it controlled technology and dic-tated the terms of trade. In future, technology will be more equally accessible, and others will start determining terms of

trade. It is this which will bring the clash of civilisations. *The Clash of Civilisations?, Samuel P Huntington, in For-eign Affairs, Summer 1993, 58 East 68th St, New York